



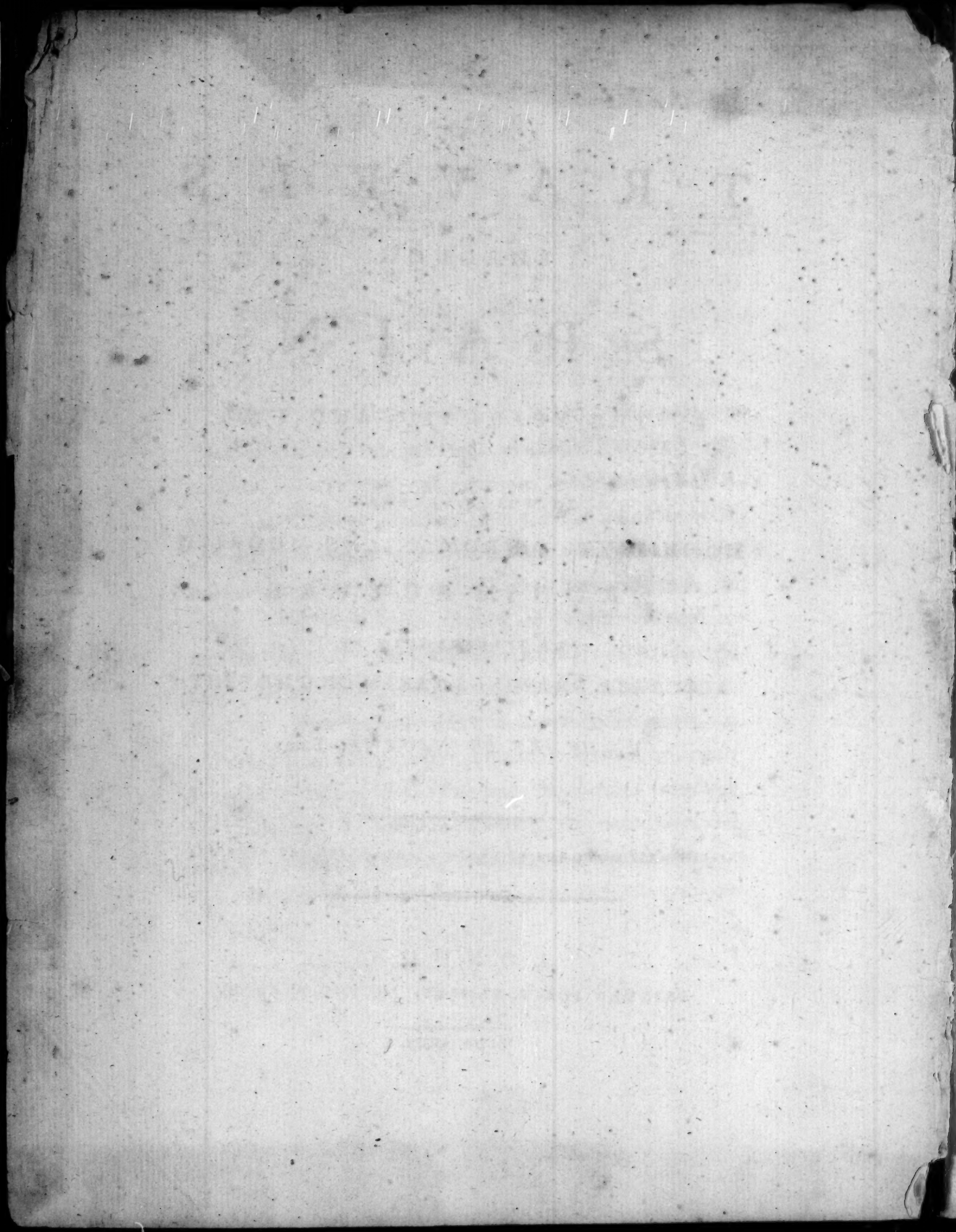
John Angerstein.



John Angerstein.



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T R A V E L S

T H R O U G H

S P A I N,

I N T H E Y E A R S 1775 A N D 1776.

I N W H I C H S E V E R A L
M O N U M E N T S O F R O M A N A N D M O O R I S H
A R C H I T E C T U R E

A R E I L L U S T R A T E D B Y
A C C U R A T E D R A W I N G S T A K E N O N T H E S P O T.

B Y H E N R Y S W I N B U R N E, E S Q;
v

R I E N N' E S T B E A U Q U E L E V R A I; L E V R A I S E U L E S T A I M A B L E.

B O I L E A U.

L O N D O N:

P R I N T E D F O R P. E L M S L Y, I N T H E S T R A N D.

M. DCC. LXXIX.

T R A V E L S

THROUGH

S P A I N

IN THE YEARS 1775 AND 1776

IN WHICH

MONUMENTS OF ROMAN AND MOORISH

A R C H I T E C T U R E

WERE DISCOVERED BY

ACCURATE DRAWINGS TAKEN ON THE SPOT

BY HENRY EDWARDS, ESQ.

WITH PLATES OF THE MOST INTERESTING REMAINS OF THE ARTS AND MANUFACTURES OF THE COUNTRY

L O N D O N
PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, IN THE STRAND

MDCCLXXVI

P R E F A C E.

MOST travellers that favour the world with their observations on foreign countries, endeavour to soften the edge of criticism by declaring, that they had originally no intentions of appearing in print, but were betrayed into the press by the importunities of their friends. This excuse seldom answers the end; for when any essential defect raises the indignation of the reader, as severe a sentence is passed upon the straggler decoyed into the literary walk, as upon the most avowed voluntary trespasser. I shall therefore be very ingenuous, and acknowledge, that when I set out upon my Spanish journey, I had thoughts of publishing my remarks on that country. I had an earnest desire of pursuing a track almost un-

trodden by travellers, that I might know how great a degree of credit was due to the accounts already given. In my plan of enquiry, an exact investigation of the soil, cultivation, government, commerce, and manners of that kingdom, was to be the grand primary object; but what I was more confident of my strength in, and what I own I found more suitable to my inclinations, was the study of its antiquities, especially the Moorish: in that line, my own eye and labour were sufficient helps to enable me to collect interesting materials for a publication.

The travels through Spain that have appeared in print, are either old and obsolete, consequently in many respects unfit to convey a proper idea of its present state; or only relations of a passage through particular provinces, where the authors had neither time nor opportunity to procure much information.

Not being under any restraint in point of time; being furnished with letters, and every thing necessary for rendering the tour easy, and my stay in the towns agreeable and instructive, with a sufficient knowledge of the language, I had some reason to hope I might
accomplish

accomplish my purpose, with satisfaction to myself, and utility to the public. How far I have succeeded, is submitted to the judgment of the candid reader; at least some little indulgence is due to me for having contributed my mite, however insignificant, to the common stock of topographical knowledge; which of late years has been so prodigiously increased by accumulated imports from all parts of the globe. There is but one merit I insist upon, that of a steady adherence to Veracity, as far as I was able to discern Truth from Falseness. I may be detected in many mistakes; because a foreigner must often be exposed to receive partial accounts of things from the natives, who have an interest in hiding the nakedness of their country, and in exaggerating its advantages; but I shall never be detected in a wilful perversion of the truth, being as free from prejudices of all kinds as most men.

Many things in my private letters, of which the following sheets are almost exact copies, were not deemed proper for the public inspection; as there are many trifling occurrences that fill up a letter very agreeably,

agreeably, but when printed become ridiculous. The additions made to the correspondence consist chiefly of the historical, commercial, and literary parts; which I drew from the most esteemed Spanish authors, from some manuscripts, and from books in the public libraries. In these researches I was much assisted by the Reverend Mr. R. Waddilove, chaplain to the British embassy; who, I hope, will excuse my making him this slight acknowledgment.

I have been very particular in whatever regards the history and architecture of the Moors, as those are subjects not yet worn thread-bare: with the help of the prints, I hope to give the curious a satisfactory idea of their manner of building, distributing and adorning public edifices. The Alhambra of Granada is an *unique*, and its excellent preservation affords an opportunity of studying all the detail of their designs and ornaments.

I can answer for the exactness of the drawings; as I never took the liberty of adding or retrenching a single object, for the sake of improving the beauty or harmony of the landscape.

Not

P R E F A C E.

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Not to multiply notes and references in the body of the work, I thought proper to give at the beginning, a Chronological Table of the Kings of Spain ; Tables of weights, coins, and measures ; and an Itinerary of our route, with the number of hours it requires to perform each stage.

A C H R O -

Not to multiply notes and references in the body of the work, I thought proper to give at the beginning a Chronological Table of the Kings of Spain; Tables of weights, coins, and measures; and an Inventory of our town, with the number of houses it contains to perform each duty.

A

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE *of the* KINGS *of* SPAIN.

Invaded by the Carthaginians	—	239 before Christ.
Conquered by the Romans	—	206 before Christ.
Conquered by the Goths	—	409 after Christ.
Invaded by the Saracens	—	712 after Christ.

KINGS OF

Asturias and Leon.	Castille.	Aragon.	Navarre.	Portugal.	Saracens.
Began to reign.					
718 Pelayo					
737 Favita					
739 Alfonso					
758 Froila					755 Abdoulrahman
768 Aurelio					
774 Silo					
783 Mauregat					788 Hiffem
788 Bermudo					795 Hachem
791 Alfonso II.					
845 Ramiro					822 Abdoulrahman
851 Ordoño			Garcias Ximenes		853 Mahomet
862 Alfonso III.			880 Fortun		886 Almundar
					888 Abdallah
910 Garcias			905 Sancho		912 Abdoulrahman
913 Ordoño II.			925 Garcias II.		961 Alhacan
923 Froila II.			970 Sancho Abarca		976 Hiffem
923 Alfonso IV.			994 Garcias III.		
927 Ramiro II.					
952 Ordoño III.					
956 Sancho					
967 Ramiro III.					
985 Bermudo II.					
999 Alfonso V.					

[x]

TABLE of the KINGS of SPAIN continued.

Leon.	Castille.	Aragon.	Navarre.	Portugal.	Saracens.
1027 Bermudo III. 1037 Sancho Ferdinand I. of Castille 1067 Sancho II. 1073 Alfonso VI.	1037 Ferdinand 1067 Sancho II. 1073 Alfonso VI.	1035 Ramiro 1063 Sancho 1094 Peter	1000 Sancho III. 1035 Garcias IV. 1054 Sancho IV. 1076 Sancho V. 1094 Peter		1014 Destruction of the kingdom of Cordova
1109 Urraca Alfonso VII. 1126 Alfonso VIII. 1157 Ferdinand II. 1188 Alfonso IX.	1109 Alfonso VII. 1126 Alfonso VIII. 1157 Sancho III. 1158 Alfonso IX.	1104 Alfonso 1134 Ramiro II. 1137 Petronilla Raymund of Barcelona 1162 Alfonso II. 1196 Peter II.	1104 Alfonso 1134 Garcias V. 1150 Sancho VI. 1194 Sancho VII.	1109 Henry 1112 Teresa 1128 Alfonso 1182 Sancho	
	1214 Henry 1217 Berengela 1217 St. Ferdinand III. 1252 Alfonso X. 1284 Sancho IV. 1295 Ferdinand IV.	1213 James 1276 Peter III. 1285 Alfonso III. 1291 James II.	1234 Thibault 1253 Thibault II. 1270 Henry 1274 Joanna	1212 Alfonso II. 1223 Sancho II. 1248 Alfonso III. 1279 Denis	1236 Mahomet 1273 Muley
	1312 Alfonso XI. 1350 Peter 1369 Henry II. 1379 John 1390 Henry III.	1327 Alfonso IV. 1336 Peter IV. 1387 John 1395 Martin	1304 Lewis 1316 Philip 1322 Charles 1328 Joanna II. 1349 Charles II. 1387 Charles III.	1325 Alfonso IV. 1357 Peter 1367 Ferdinand. 1383 John.	1302 Mahomet 1310 Nazer 1315 Ismael 1326 Mahomet 1333 Juzaf 1354 Lago 1374 Mahomet 1379 Mahomet 1392 Juzaf 1396 Balba
	1404 John II. 1460 Henry IV. 1474 Isabella Ferdinand V.	1412 Ferdinand 1416 Alfonso V. 1458 John II. 1459 Ferdinand II.	1425 Blanche 1441 John 1479 Eleonora 1479 Francis 1483 Catherine John	1423 Edward 1438 Alfonso V. 1481 John II. 1495 Emmanuel	1408 Juzaf 1423 Elaziri. 1427 Zagair. 1432 Juzaf 1445 Ben Osmin 1453 Ismael 1475 Abilhuffan 1485 Abouabdallah 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella
	1504 Joan Philip 1506 Charles 1556 Philip II. 1598 Philip III.		1516 Henry 1555 Joan III. Anthony 1572 Henry	1521 John III. 1557 Sebastian 1578 Henry 1580 Philip 1598 Philip II.	
	1621 Philip IV. 1665 Charles II.			1621 Philip 1640 John IV. 1646 Alfonso VI. 1683 Peter II.	
	1700 Philip V. 1724 Lewis 1726 Philip V. 1746 Ferdinand VI. 1759 Charles III.			1706 John V. 1750 Joseph. 1777 Mary Peter.	

A TABLE

A TABLE of WEIGHTS, MEASURES, and COINS.

WEIGHTS OF CATALONIA.

12 Ounces	}	make	{	1 Pound
26 Pounds				1 Arroba
4 Arrobas				1 Quintal
120 Pounds				100 $\frac{p}{t}$ of Amsterdam
125 Pounds				1 hundred weight English

WEIGHTS OF CASTILLE.

1 Quintal	}	contains	{	100 Libras, or
1 Arroba				4 Arrobas
1 Media Arroba				25 lb.
1 Quarto de Arroba				12 lb. 8 oz.
1 Media quarto de Arroba				6 lb. 4 oz.
				3 lb. 2 oz.
1 Libra	}	contains	{	16 Onzas
1 Mediatt				8 oz.
1 Quarteron				4 oz.
1 Medio quarteron				2 oz.
1 Onza				4 quartas
1 Quarta	}	contains	{	2 Medios quartas
1 Media quarta				2 Adarmes
1 Adarmes				2 Medios Adarmes

N. B. The Valencian and Catalan lb. contains only 12 oz. but the oz. are larger.

LONG MEASURE.

12 Inches	}	make	{	1 Castilian foot
3 Castilian feet				1 Vara
1648 Varas				1 Mile
7680 Varas				1 League

The Vara is about 33 Inches English. 1920 Varas make an English Mile of 1760 Yards.

C O I N S.

IMAGINARY.

Real de Vellon	{ equal to half a real de plata or eight quarters 2 maravidis		
Escudo de Vellon	—	—	10 reals de Vel.
Ducado de Vellon	—	—	11 r. V. 1 mar.
Ducado de Plata nuevo	—	—	16 r. V. 17 mar.
Ducado de Plata Antiquo	—	—	20 — 25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dobla de oro Decabua, Pefo	—	—	14 — 9

B R A S S.

Maravadi, the least coin in Spain			
Ochavo	—	—	2
Quarto	—	—	4
Dofquartos	—	—	8

} maravidis

N. B. A Real de Vellon is worth 8 Quartos 2 Maravidis, or 17 Ochavos.

S I L V E R.

Medio real de Plata	—	—	1 r. de Vellon.
Real de Plata	—	—	2
Real de 2, pefetta, pistreen	—	—	4
Real de 4 Sevillano	—	—	8
Real de 8 Sevillano	—	—	16
Medio real columnario	—	—	1 — 8
Real de Plata colum.	—	—	2 — 17
Real de a 2 colum.	—	—	5
Real de a 4	—	—	10
Real de a 8	—	—	20

G O L D.

Veintino, pefo duro, hard dollar	—	—	20 r. de Vellon.
Efcudo de oro nuevo	—	—	37 — 17
Efcudo de oro Antiquo	—	—	37 — 22
Doblon de a 2 nuevo, pistola	—	—	75
Doblon de a 2 Antiquo	—	—	75 — 10
Doblon de a 4 nuevo	—	—	150
Doblon de a 4 Antiquo	—	—	150 — 20
Doblon de a 8 nuevo, quadruple	—	—	380
Doblon de a 8 Antiquo	—	—	301 — 6

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ITINERARY.

I T I N E R A R Y.

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
Perpignan	Notre dame ; bad.	
Boulou	Dolphin ; tolerable	4
Junquiera	Town-house	3
Figuera	S. Joseph ; bad ; French house	3½
Coldoriot	Single house ; bad	3½
Girona	Fontana d'Oro ; good	4
Mayorquien	Bad	4½
Sanfality	Bad	6½
Rincon	Single house	6
Barcelona	Fontana d'Oro	4½
Cipreret	Single house ; clean	4½
Villa Franca	Bad	5
Figuereta	Single	5½
Tarragona	Bad	3½
Reus		3
Hospitalet	Single ; no lodging	5
Venta del Platero	Single ; as bad as any in Spain	3½
Venta Don Ramon	Tolerable ; new	4½
Torlofa	S. Joseph ; new inn	3
Ildecona	Poor	5
Benecarlo		3
Torreblanca		6½
Castillon	S. Francisco ; good	7
Nule	Good	3½
Morviedro	Clean	4
Valencia	S. Andrea ; not the best	4½
Alzira	French ; clean	6½
San Felipe	French ; new	3½
Mojente		4½

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
Fuente de la Xiguera	Good	3
Villena		4
Monforte		6½
Alicant	S. Francisco; pleasant	4
Elche	Bad	4½
Orihuela	Tolerable	5½
Murcia	Tolerable	4½
Venta San Pedro	Nothing	5½
Carthagená	Aguila d'Oro; excellent	2½
Fuente del Alamo	Bad	4½
Totana	Clear	6
Lorca	Tolerable	4
Puerto Horniera	Very bad	3½
Velez el Rubio		6
Xirivel		3½
Cuellar		5
Baca		4½
Venta del Golpe	Wretched	6½
Guadix		3½
Isñallos	Tolerable	11½
Granada	Al Sol; there is a better	6½
Loja		10
Antequera	Corona; clean	11
Venta de Almoyna		3
Malaga	Coffee-house	3
Venta de la Compania		3
Antequera		3
Pedraera		11
Ofuna	Good	3½
Puebla		3½
Arajal	Good	4½
Molares	Very bad	4½
Cabecas		6
Venta del Biscayno	Good	3
Xeres	Arroyo; good.	6½
Puerto S. Maria	Three Emperors; Italian	3½
Cadiz	Cavallo Blanco; Italian	2
Chielana	Baudry; good	4
Cortijos		14
San Roque		12
Gibraltar		1½
San Roque		1½
Cara del Duque		12

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
Chielana	—	14
Cadiz	—	4
Puerto	—	0½
Xeres	—	3
V. Biscayno	—	7
V. Alcantirella	—	6½
V. Oran	Clean	2
Sevilla	La Reyna; Italian	5½
Carmona	Good	7½
V. Monclova	—	5½
Eccija	S. Agostino	4
Carlotta	New; good	4
Cordova	Fonda; Italian	5
Carpio	—	6
Aldea	—	5
Anduxar	—	5
V. Rombla	—	4
Carolina	New; excellent	7½
V. Miranda	—	3
Vifo	—	6
Santa Cruz	—	3¼
Valdepeñas	Good; new. Good wine	3½
Mancanares	—	5
Villaharta	—	5½
Puerto Lapiche	—	2½
Confuegra	—	3½
Mora	Good	6
Toledo	Sangre de Christo; clean	6½
Illescas	—	6½
Getafe	—	4¼
Madrid	S. Sebastian; Italian	3
Aranjuez	Italian; good	4
Madrid	—	4
Escorial	—	4½
V. S. Catalina	—	4
S. Ildefonso	—	9
Segovia	Good	2
S. Maria	—	5½
Villa S. Cruz	—	5½
Hornillo	—	4¼
Valladolid	Good	5½
V. Trigueros	—	4
Torquemada	—	7

I T I N E R A R Y.

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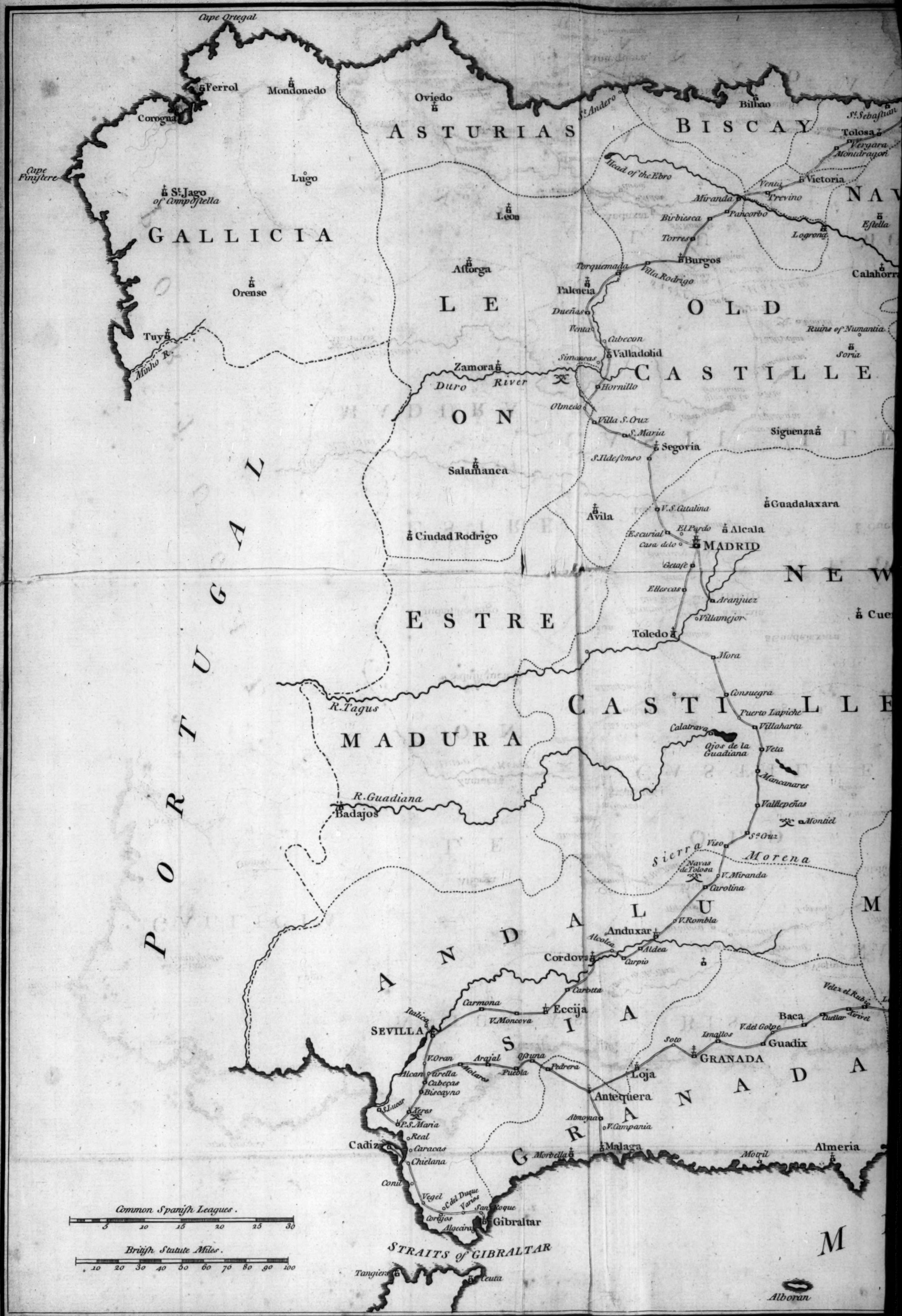
Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
Villa Rodrigo	—	5
Burgos	Good	9½
Torres	Poor place	3½
Birviesca	—	5½
Pancorvo	Tolerable	5½
V. S. Gaetan	Excellent	7
Victoria	Good	2
Montdragon	Dirty	6½
Vergara	Good	2½
Tolosa	—	9½
Hernani	Good	3¾
Passage	—	6
S. Jean de Luz	Good	4
Bayonne	S. Etienne.	

Directions

Directions for placing the Prints.

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LETTERS





ITINERARY MAP
OF
SPAIN.

T R A V E L S

T H R O U G H

S P A I N.

L E T T E R I.

Perpignan, October 23, 1775.

HERE we are, in hopes of setting out for Spain to-morrow, but many are the difficulties we shall have to encounter before we make our point good. Mules and horses are scarce and dear, and the roads are said to be much damaged by the late floods.

After a thousand delays, we left Toulouse at one o'clock on Sunday, and, travelling all night, reached Narbonne about noon next day. Having rambled over that small city, and perused the ancient inscriptions in the

B

archiepiscopal

2 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

archiepiscopal palace, we thought it adviseable to move on ; and accordingly came to sleep at Sigean, in order to have more leifure at Perpignan for arranging matters, and looking out for mules and other requisites for our Spanish journey.

There is not a more barren country on the face of the earth, than that between Narbonne and Rivesaltes, famous for its muscadine wine ; yet I suspect you would prefer those bleak grey hills to more fertile spots ; for among the stones, and through the crannies of the rocks, shoot up innumerable tribes of aromatic plants, on which, as a botanist, your eye would feast with rapture. The superior excellence of the Narbonne honey is, no doubt, owing to this profusion of strong-scented flowers, on which the bees feed.

The bay of Leucate, and the plains that stretch out from the sea to the foot of the Pyrenean mountains, form a noble sweep, that bears some resemblance to the gulph of Naples.

Perpignan is a villainous ugly town, on the skirts of an extensive flat, that has just olive woods enough to make a tolerable appearance from the ramparts. The grounds are inclosed with the tall yellow-flowering aloe.

LETTER

L E T T E R II.

San Salony, October 27, 1775.

AS I am informed the post passes by to-morrow from Barcelona, I write from this place, lest we should be delayed by any accident, and so miss the opportunity.

The weather hitherto has been very favourable; a clear sky and warm sun since the 24th, the day we left Perpignan. There was such a scarcity of mules, that we were forced to comply with the exorbitant demands of a French *voiturier* and two Italian rope-dancers, who insisted upon twenty Louis-d'ors for ten horses as far as Barcelona: one of the tumblers rides postillion to our carriage; and for want of a saddle-horse, my man S* G*** goes with the other in a crazy two-wheeled chaise; but any thing, to get away from Perpignan, a most disagreeable town, and, to a curious traveller, destitute of every kind of recommendation.

The heavy rains that fell about a month ago, swelled the torrents to such a degree, that in many places they spoiled the road; this rendered our evening journey very uncomfortable, and made it late before we could reach a poor inn at Boulou, near the mountains that separate Roussillon from Catalonia. By the help of our own beds, cook, and provisions, we rested very well in our hovel,

4 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

and next morning sallied forth as burlesque a caravan as ever left inn since the days of ' *Le Destin & La Rancune*. Several ingenious persons travelling to the fair of Girona had joined company with us ; we composed the center ; our vanguard was formed by a drummer and a tabor and pipe ; the rear was brought up by a camel, loaded with five monkies, escorted by two men who carried his portrait. These, and three pedlars, whom we soon after overtook, were all come from the Milanese. A few paces from the inn we crossed the Tech, a broad torrent, very dangerous after rain : in the late floods it caused immoderate damage to the country. A few miles farther, we came to the chain of mountains that divides France and Spain, which are of no very considerable elevation.

The road over the pass is a noble work, and reflects great honour on the engineer who planned it. It is now very wide ; the rocks are blasted, and spread out, and bridges are laid over the hollows, which formerly were most dangerous precipices. It then required the strength of thirty men to support, and almost as many oxen to drag up a carriage, which four horses now draw with ease.

Exactly on the limits of France, in the highest part of the pass, stands the fort of Bellegarde, on a round hill, commanding a boundless view over both kingdoms : an

* Scarron's Comic Romance.

officer

officer of invalids has a lodge below, where he examines and signs the passports.

At La Junquera, the first Spanish town, an officer of the customs made a shew of examining our baggage; but a piece of money soon put an end to his search. Near this place a bloody battle was fought in 920, between the Christians and Moors, in which the former were defeated with great slaughter. This was once a considerable city, a colony of the Massilians, or people of Marseilles, and afterwards an episcopal see: but now it is a paltry village, subsisting on what little is spent in it by passengers, and on the produce of the cork-woods, which seem to turn to good account. The surrounding mountains are covered with those trees; most of them are of great size and age: their trunks, lately stripped of the bark, are of a dusky red colour: the operation of peeling them cannot be repeated above once in seven or eight years; but in the southern parts of Spain, they do it every fifth year.

From hence to Figuera, an ugly straggling town, the country improves every step; the hills are cloathed with evergreen woods; the plains, in the finest cultivation, are divided by hedges of aloe, christthorn, or wild pomegranate. The inhabitants are well-clad, good-looking fellows; the women much comelier than their neighbours on the French side of the Pyrenees. Ferdinand the Sixth began a most spacious fortress above Figuera, capable of containing 12,000 men: it is far from being finished,

6 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

finished, and indeed it is difficult to guess what service it can be of when completed.

Our journey to Girona was very pleasant, through a well-laid-out country, diversified with fertile plains, and gentle eminences crowned with ever-green oaks and pines. The view stretches down over the olive plantations, in the low grounds, as far as the sea; slender towers on the points of the rocks, and white steeples rising out of the woods, add great life to this charming scene.

In every village, we found the people busily employed in making ropes, baskets, and shoes, of a small rush or reed called *esparto*.

Girona, where we lay last night, is a large clean city, with some good streets; but poorly inhabited, and for the most part gloomy. The churches are darker than caverns; the gothic cathedral is grand, but so very dark at the upper end, that but for the glimmering of two smoky lamps, we should not have discovered that the canopy and altar are of massy silver.

The road was all this morning very hilly, but the dryness of the weather prevented it from being at its usual pitch of badness. Every thing, as Pangloss says, is for the best: had we left Bagneres when we intended, we should have had these deep roads to pass immediately after excessive rains; and, ten to one, should have been delayed many days by the swelling of the torrents. Great part of this day's journey has been through the
most

TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN. 7

most savage wilds in nature : nothing but mountains upon mountains, covered with pines ; a rambling sandy river fills up the hollows, winding through all the turns of the hanging woods and narrow dells ; a flight track on the sand is the only thing that conveys any idea of the footsteps of man. The castle of Hostalric, a modern fortress, commands the outlet of this desert, and overlooks the turrets and walls of an old ruinous village, wildly situated on the brink of a precipice.

This morning, on leaving Girona, we met with a laughable accident. S* G*, who travels in the vehicle of the mountebank, was roused from his nap by the bottom of the chaise suddenly giving way, and dropping them both into the river Ter. They were obliged to walk in the chaise (literally *se promener en voiture*) quite through the water, before their horses could be prevailed upon to stop.

The peasants have brought us partridges for supper, though it be Friday, and seem very well accustomed to see meat eaten on fasting days ; however, the maid of the inn thinks to atone for this irregularity, by placing before us on the table a well-drest image of the Virgin, to whom she expects we should behave with proper liberality.

The mode of drinking in this country is singular : they hold a broad-bottom'd glass bottle at arm's length, and let the liquor spout out of a long neck upon their tongue ;

8 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

tongue ; from what I see, their expertness at this exercise arises from frequent practice ; for the Catalans drink often, and in large quantities, but as yet I have not seen any of them intoxicated.

L E T T E R III.

Barcelona, October 31, 1775.

OUR journey of the 28th was by much the most severe as to roads ; the cross ones in Suffex are not worse. The pass called *El Purgatorio* had very nearly proved a *Hell* to us ; for we thought at one time that the carriages must have remained jammed in between the rocks. The prospects on each side of the way are for the greatest part delightful ; nothing can be more agreeable to the eye than the gothic steeples towering above the dark pine-groves, the bold ruins of La Rocca, and the rich fields on the banks of the Besos ; but the passes are so bad, the roads so cut up, deep, and dangerous, that it was not possible to enjoy the beauties that surrounded us.

We got into this city just before the shutting of the gates. Upon the whole, this four days journey, though
attended

attended with some disagreeable circumstances, was far from unpleasant; the weather was charming, and our health and spirits excellent, with which it is easy to bear up against the little rubs and vexations of an expedition like ours. The obstinacy of our coachmen, by taking the inland road, deprived us of the satisfaction of seeing the towns and orange-gardens along the coast.

We have paid the necessary visits to those in command. The governor of the place is a Velasco, brother to that Don Lewis who was killed at the surprize of the Moro castle. It is strange enough that the king should bestow the title of *Conde del Asalto* on the brother; it might with more propriety be conferred on the English general, who commanded the attack.

Our first entertainment here was the Spanish comedy. Alas! most of its glorious absurdities are vanished, and Dulness has established her throne on this stage. I was quite tired, and longed to have seen Harlequin carrying relics in procession, saints and devils engaged in doubtful conflict, and Lucifer acting the part of a prior of a convent, as they did formerly in the Loas and Autos sacramentales².

² Autos and mysteries are prohibited on the theatres of Madrid, but are frequently represented upon all others in the kingdom, and even in the puppet-shews at the royal country residences. A friend of mine saw one acted last year at San Lucar, called the Conversion of Saint Barbara; a friar, by way of proving to her the mystery of the Trinity, gathered up three folds in the skirt of his habit, and then let them fall. The three plaits in one cloth were the image of three persons in one God.

I am afraid we are come here a century too soon, or a century too late, and that the old original cast is worn off the character of the Spaniards, without their having thoroughly acquired the polish of France or England: this will render them a much less interesting race of people: in this province they are said to advance apace; Barcelona seems to be a busy, thriving town, and the Catalans an industrious set of men.

The playhouse is handsome, and well-lighted up. The first piece we saw acted was a tragedy, in which there were no parts for women in the *dramatis personæ*; so, in order to make it ridiculous, the actresses put on breeches and performed the play, without allowing any males to appear among them. The declamation was bombastical and whining. The prompters (for they have them in many parts of the stage) read aloud, verse by verse, what the player repeated after them, with the addition of a final twang, or an occasional swing of the arm. Between the first and the second acts we had a *seguidilla* sung, as wild and uncouth as any thing can be, but now and then some very moving passages struck the ear. After the second, we had, for interlude, an attack made upon the actresses by the actors from a corner of the front boxes. The wit was bandied about very briskly, and made the audience roar again, but, as far as I could understand, it was very poor quibbling.

Before I proceed to give you any information concerning

ing the present state of the country, you perhaps will not be sorry to know something of its particular history.

The account of the original inhabitants of Catalonia, and of the foundation of Barcelona, are, with the rest of the early history of Spain, involved in such a cloud of fables, that nothing satisfactory relative to those dark ages can be discovered. The Massilians appear to have carried on a great trade, and to have been much connected with these provinces. Hamilcar Barcas is said to have founded Barcino, now Barcelona; but the Carthaginians did not long keep possession of it, for we find their boundary fixed at the Ebro, so early as the end of the first Punic war. After the fall of the Carthaginian commonwealth, the Romans turned their whole attention towards Tarraco, and neglected Barcino, though they made it a colony by the name of Faventia.

In the fifth century, the barbarians of the north of Europe, having pushed their conquests as far as this peninsula, divided it among the different nations that composed their victorious armies. Catalonia fell to the lot of the Goths under Ataulph, in 414. It remained under their dominion to the year 714, when it was forced to submit to the yoke of the Saracens; who, under the command of Abdallah Cis, made themselves masters of all the coast, as far as the Pyrenees. Tarragona being now no better than an heap of ruins, Barcelona became imperceptibly the capital of the province. Lewis the Debon-

nair, son of Charlemagne, took it from the Moors in 800. From that period, the emperors, kings of France, governed Catalonia by appointing counts or vicegerents, removeable at pleasure, till the government was rendered hereditary in the family of Wifred the Hairy : whether this happened by a concession of Charles the Bald, or by usurpation, remains a doubt among the learned. It continued in his posterity for many generations. This prince having been grievously wounded in a battle against the Normans, received a visit from the emperor, who dipping his finger in the blood that trickled from the wound, drew four lines down the gilt shield of Wifred, saying, " Earl, be these thy armorial ensign." Four pallets Gules, on a field Or, remained from that time the coat of arms of Catalonia, and afterwards of Aragon, when Raymund the Fifth married Petronilla, only daughter and heiress of Ramiro the Second, king of Aragon. Their son Alfonso succeeded to that crown in 1162. The heirs male of Aragon failing in Martin, the Cortes or states elected Ferdinand of Castille, whose grandson Ferdinand the Catholic, by his marriage with Isabella heiress of Castille, and by the conquest of Granada, united all the Spanish kingdoms into one compact formidable monarchy, which devolved upon the house of Austria, in the person of his grandson Charles.

The violent spirit of the Catalans, and their enthusiastic passion for liberty, have often rendered their country the

the feat of civil war and bloodshed : insurrections have been more frequent here than in any other part of Europe. The most remarkable were ; first, that in the time of Ferdinand the Fifth, when the peasants rose in arms to deliver themselves from the oppression of the nobles. Secondly, that under Philip the Fourth, about the time that the Portuguese shook off the Spanish yoke ; the issue of the war was not equally favourable to the Catalans, who failed in their attempt of becoming independent, and after having been twelve years under the protection of France, were reduced to obedience by Don John of Austria. Thirdly, that during the war of the succession, the most famous rebellion, as the French and Spanish writers stigmatize it ; or, in the language of a republican, the most obstinate struggle they ever made to break their chains and become a free nation. They attached themselves to the party of the archduke Charles, whose coin is still current in the province. In 1706, Barcelona sustained a siege, which Philip the Fifth was obliged to raise on the appearance of an English fleet. Though shamefully deserted by England at the peace of Utrecht, and afterwards by the emperor, the Catalans persisted in their revolt, and, having no longer the protection of any foreign prince to expect, resolved to form themselves into a commonwealth.

Lewis the Fourteenth sent the Duke of Berwick, in 1714, with a formidable army, to reduce Barcelona. The
trenches

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trenches were opened in July, and the works carried on with the greatest vigour for sixty-one days; a French fleet blocked up the port, and prevented any succours or provisions from getting in. Yet, notwithstanding the famine that raged within, the terrible fire kept up by the enemy's batteries, and the despondency of the regular troops, who were inclined to a capitulation, the burghesses, animated by despair, rejected all offers of accommodation, and seemed determined to bury themselves under the ruins of their city. The very friars, inspired by the same enthusiasm, ran up and down the streets exhorting their fellow-citizens to die like brave men, rather than live the despicable slaves of a despot. The women, the children breathed the same spirit, and shared the labours of the defence with their husbands and fathers.

After sustaining four bloody assaults, and disputing the breach inch by inch, being at last driven from the ramparts, and from a breastwork they had thrown up behind the walls, they were obliged to fly for refuge to the new part of the town, where they made a kind of capitulation. Their persons were to remain untouched, but every privilege abolished, and heavy taxes laid upon them to recompense the soldiery. Since this epocha, Catalonia has borne the yoke with sullen patience, except when, a few years ago, the mode of raising recruits by *quintas* or ballot was ordered to be adopted in this as well as the other provinces of Spain. The Catalans, to whom such a regulation

regulation was new, and consequently odious, were upon the point of taking up arms; but, a few rioters being killed by the cannon of the citadel, the commotion was quelled in the capital, and, the king having given up the project for the present, the rest of the principality was pacified. However, no arms are allowed to be carried by the common people, and very strict discipline is kept up in Barcelona.

L E T T E R IV.

Barcelona, November 3, 1775.

THIS city is a sweet spot; the air equals in purity, and much excels in mildness, the boasted climate of Montpellier. Except in the dog-days, they have green pease all the year round. The situation is beautiful, the appearance both from land and sea remarkably picturesque. A great extent of fruitful plains, bounded by an amphitheatre of hills, backs it on the west side; the mountain of Montjuich defends it on the south from the unwholesome winds that blow over the marshes at the mouth of the Llobregat; to the northward, the coast projecting into the sea, forms a noble bay; it has the
Mediterranean

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Mediterranean to close the prospect to the east. The environs are in a state of high cultivation, studded with villages, country houses, and gardens.

The form of Barcelona is almost circular, the Roman town being on the highest ground in the center of the new one; the ancient walls are still visible in several places, but the sea has retired many hundreds of yards from the port gates; one of the principal gothic churches, and a whole quarter of the city, stand upon the sands that were once the bottom of the harbour. The immense loads of sand hurried down into the sea by the rivers, and thrown back by wind and current into this haven, will, in all probability, choke it quite up, unless more diligence be used in preventing the gathering of the shoals. A southerly wind brings in the sand, and already a deep-loaden vessel finds it dangerous to pass over the bar. Some years ago a company of Dutch and English adventurers offered to bring the river into the port by means of a canal, if government would allow them a free importation for ten years. This project might have cleared away the sand-banks, but might also have given a fatal check to the infant manufactures of the country, for which reason the proposal was rejected. The port is handsome; the mole is all of hewn stone, a master-piece of solidity and convenience. Above is a platform for carriages; below, vast magazines, with a broad key reaching from the city gates to the lighthouse. This was
done

done by the orders of the late Marquis de La Mina, captain-general of the principality, where his memory is held in greater veneration than at the court of Madrid. He governed Catalonia many years, more like an independent sovereign, than like a subject invested with a delegated authority. Great are the obligations Barcelona has to him; he cleansed and beautified its streets, built useful edifices, and forwarded its trade and manufactures, without much extraordinary expence to the province; for he had more resources, and made money go farther than most other governors can do, or indeed wish to do. On the neck of land that runs into the sea, and forms the port, he pulled down some fishermen's huts, and in 1752 began to build Barceloneta, a regular town, consisting of about two thousand brick houses, quarters for a regiment, and a church, in which his ashes are deposited under a tasteless monument, with the following barbarous epitaph.

D. O. M.

*Hic Gusmannorum jacet Epitome
Exc. Dom. Marchio de la Mina,
Dux, Princeps, summus Imperator, Præses,
In Acie Fulmen, in Aulâ Flamen,
Obiit heu! Homo, at non abiit Heros
Cui Inscriptio, Virtus omnis
Die 30 Jan. Anno 1768.*

R. I. P.

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As the land was given gratis, the houses were soon run up on a regular plan; a ground-floor and one story above, with three windows in front and a pediment over them; the whole consisting of about twenty streets, and containing nigh ten thousand inhabitants.

The lighthouse at the end of the pier is a slender tower, near which ships lie when they perform quarantine. The old one stood much nearer the land, but was swept away in a dreadful hurricane.

Another of La Mina's improvements, is the rampart or great walk upon the walls, extending the whole length of the harbour. It is all built upon arches, with magazines below, and a broad coach-road and foot-path above, raised to the level of the first floor of the houses in the adjoining street. In these clear, warm evenings, it is very pleasant to walk along this pavement, to the arsenal at the south-east angle of the city; where they are busy raising new fortifications, to prevent a surprize, in case of an insurrection. The late expedition against Algiers, has drained these magazines so completely, that scarce a cannon, or even a nail, is to be seen. The work-shops are built upon a grand scale, but little business is going forward at present.

At this corner the rampart joins the Rambla, a long irregular street, which they have begun to level and widen, with the intention of planting an avenue down the middle. Here the ladies parade in their coaches,
and

and sometimes go quite round the city upon the walls, which are of brick, lately repaired and enlarged. The drive is charming, having a sweet country on one side, and on the other, clusters of small gardens and orange-yards. You descend at the north gate into a very spacious square before the citadel, just where the grand breach was made, when the duke of Berwick besieged the town.

The citadel has six strong bastions, calculated to overawe the inhabitants, at least as much as to defend them from a foreign enemy. The lowness of its situation renders it damp, unwholesome, and swarming with mosquitoes. The major of this fortress owes his promotion to a singular circumstance. When the present king arrived at Madrid in 1759, a magnificent bull-feast was given in honour of that event: as it is necessary upon such occasions, that those who fight on horseback should be gentlemen born, the managers of the exhibition were greatly at a loss; till this man, who was a poor, starving officer, presented himself, though utterly ignorant both of bull-fighting and horsemanship. By dint of resolution, and the particular favour of fortune, he kept his seat, and performed his part so much to the public satisfaction, that he was rewarded with a pension and a majority.

The streets of Barcelona are narrow, but well paved; a covered drain in the middle of each street carries off

the filth and rain-water. At night they are tolerably well lighted-up, but long before day-break every lamp is out. The houses are lofty and plain. To each kind of trade a particular district is allotted.

The principal edifices are, the cathedral, Santa Maria, the general's palace, and the exchange. The architecture of the cathedral is a light gothic, which, in the ornaments of the cloysters, is inimitably airy. The stalls of the choir are neatly carved, and hung with escutcheons of princes and noblemen, among which I remarked the arms of our Henry the Eighth. The double arches under the belfry are deservedly admired, for bearing on their center the whole weight of two enormous towers. In the cloysters various kinds of foreign birds are kept, upon funds bequeathed for that purpose, by a wealthy canon. I could not learn what motives induced him to make so whimsical a devise.

Santa Maria is also a gothic pile.

The palace is square and low, without out-courts or gardens, and contains nothing worthy of remark but a noble ball-room.

Opposite to its south front, they are now erecting, out of the ruins of an old habitation of the earls of Barcelona, a new exchange upon an extensive plan, but in a heavy taste. The architect assured us the shell would not cost above 300,000 Catalan livres; but he must either have imposed upon us, or do very extraordinary justice

justice to the trust reposed in him, if he builds such a mass of stone for that sum. The work is carried on by means of a tax upon imports. In the old part of the building yet left standing, the board of commerce has instituted an academy for drawing, in which five hundred boys are taught that art, and furnished with all proper implements, gratis. A master from Paris is the director of their studies; and every month prizes of fifteen and twenty dollars are distributed to the most deserving.

The Roman antiquities in this city are : 1. A mosaic pavement, in which are represented two large green figures of tritons, holding a shell in each hand; between them a sea-horse, and on the sides a serpent and a dolphin. The common opinion is, that this church was a temple of Esculapius; but the ornaments seem to prove very clearly that it belonged to some fane dedicated to Neptune. 2. Many vaults and cellars of Roman construction. 3. The archdeaconry, once the palace of the prætor or Roman governor. From the solidity of the walls, and the regularity of the work, I am inclined to believe the tradition; but there is neither grandeur nor elegance to recommend it to notice. Some medallions and inscriptions fixed in the wall, apparently at the time of its erection, rather invalidate the idea of such remote antiquity. 4. In the yard, a beautiful cistern, or rather sarcophagus, which now serves as a watering-trough for mules. They call it the coffin of Pompey's father,

father, and it may as well be his as that of any one else, for we have no proof to the contrary. A large bas-relief runs round it, of hunters, dogs, and wild beasts. The chief person is on horseback, bareheaded, in a military dress. The figures and animals are executed in a masterly style, and the whole is a fine monument of antiquity. 5. In the house belonging to the family of Pinos, which was almost levelled to the ground by the bombs during the siege, are many excellent busts and medallions. An *Augustus Pater*, with a *corona radialis*, a small elegant Bacchus, and a woman holding a rabbit, supposed to represent Spain, the *Provincia cunicularis*, are the most remarkable. The owners of this house have always remained so true to their principles in politics, that they have constantly resided in a poor dwelling hard by, and left their palace in ruins, as a *memento* to their fellow-citizens, and a monument of their own spirit and misfortunes.

LETTER

L E T T E R V.

Barcelona, November 10, 1775.

YESTERDAY, being the festival of Saint Charles Borromeo, the king's patron, it was kept as a day of *Gala*. All the officers waited upon the governor in grand uniform; the theatre was illuminated, and crowded with well-drest company, which made a very handsome shew; the price of admittance was raised from half a pistreen to a whole one. The pit is divided into seats, let by the year, each person keeping his own key; the boxes are taken for the season, and the upper gallery is filled with women in white veils, and no men allowed to sit among them; so that a stranger is at a loss for a place.

The play was the *Cid Campeador*, an historical tragedy, written with a great deal of fire, and force of character. The actors, in the old Spanish habit and Moorish garment, seemed to enter more than usual into the sense of the author. In all tragedies they drop a curtesy, instead of bowing, to kings and heroes. A pretty ballad was sung by a woman, in the smart dress of a *Maja* or coquette: she wore her hair in a scarlet net, with tassels; a striped gauze handkerchief crossed over her breast; a rich

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rich jacket, flowered apron, and brocade petticoat. I observed the pit was crowded with clergymen.

I passed the morning in the cabinet of natural history, belonging to Mr. Salvador. The botanical specimens are the most perfect part of the collection, though he possesses many rare things in every other branch of that study.

This afternoon has been employed in copying out lists of the Spanish forces, with their regulations; a succinct account of which may perhaps be interesting to you at this period, when our politicians in England seem so much afraid of them, and whilst their late unsuccessful attempt against Algiers still renders them the general topic of conversation.

If we are to credit the printed lists, the Spanish army consists of above an hundred and thirty thousand men; but the real number falls far short of this amount, and it is a matter of doubt, whether the regular troops exceed the number of fifty thousand.

The king's household is composed of three troops of gentlemen horse-guards, Spanish, Italian, and Flemish; one company of halberdiers; six battalions of Spanish, and six of Walloon foot-guards; and one brigade of carabiniers.

There are six regiments of Spanish infantry of two battalions; and twenty-seven of one battalion; two Italian, three Irish, four Walloon, and four Swiss regiments

ments of one battalion ; one regiment of artillery of four battalions ; six thousand seven hundred and twelve marines ; and one company of engineers.

Each battalion of foot is composed of one company of grenadiers of sixty-six men, and of eight companies of fusileers of eighty men each, including three commissioned officers.

White or blue is the colour of their regimentals, except one Spanish and three Irish, who are dressed in red.

The cavalry consists of fourteen regiments, of which six are in blue, four in red, three in white, and one in green.

The dragoons form eight regiments, of which one is in blue, one in red, and six in yellow.

A regiment of cavalry and dragoons contains four squadrons, each composed of three companies ; in each company are three commissioned officers, and forty-five soldiers.

Besides the regulars, they once a year assemble forty-three regiments of militia, and twenty companies of city-guards. The corps of invalids contains forty-six companies on duty, and twenty-six disabled. The African and American garrisons have also their respective militia.

Their uniforms are ugly and ill made ; the soldiers abominably nasty in their cloaths, and their black greasy

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hair seldom drest. Till very lately, they were commonly in rags, and often mounted guard with half a coat, and almost bare breeched; but now they are rather better clad, and kept in a somewhat more decent trim.

The pay of a soldier is five quartos and an half, and twenty-one ounces of bread a day. After fifteen years service, he has an increase of five reals of Vellon a month; after twenty, nine reals; and after twenty-five, he may retire, and receive a pezzetta per diem, and be cloathed as if he was still on actual service. If he remains thirty years in the army, he is allowed the rank and pay of a subaltern officer. Every forty months, he receives new regimentals, two shirts, two stocks, one pair of shoes, two pair of stockings, a cap, and a hat.

The rank of any officer may be known at first sight, by a particular badge of distinction. A captain-general wears blue, embroidered with gold down the seams, and three rows of embroidery on the sleeves: a lieutenant-general has nothing on the seams, and but two rows on the cuffs; a mariscal de campo, but one: a brigadier has red cuffs, with one row of silver embroidery on his coat: a colonel has three narrow bindings on his sleeve, of the colour of his regimental button; a lieutenant-colonel, two; and a major, one: the mark of a captain is two epauletts; of a lieutenant, one on his right shoulder; and of an ensign, one on the left.

The pay of a lieutenant is two pezzettas and a half
per

per diem; that of an ensign, two. As every thing has trebled in price since their pay was established, it is become insufficient for the maintenance of the officers. In the guards, all subalterns must live upon their own fortune, till they get a company, which they may perhaps wait thirty years for.

About seven thousand men form the garrison of Barcelona, of which four thousand two hundred are guards; the rest Swiss and dragoons. Each corps has its quarter appointed, which it provides with centries, and therefore they never interfere with each other.

Most of these troops are lately returned from the Algerine expedition, where they suffered great hardships; this has made them outrageous against Count O'Reilly, their commander. Conversation, at present, turns entirely upon that subject, and it would hardly be safe to undertake his justification. In all this there may be a great deal of jealousy, against a foreigner that has made so rapid a fortune, and enjoys so large a share of the confidence of their common master. A singular instance of the national hatred, was exhibited a few months ago at Valencia. Some hundreds of boys got together, and, having divided their numbers into an army of Christians, and one of Moors, pitched upon the lame, deformed son of a French barber, to personate O'Reilly, the chief of the Spanish party. The infidels obtained a compleat victory; and a court-martial was held upon the Christian

commander. He was found guilty of cowardice and mismanagement, and condemned to be whipped. The sentence was executed with such rigour, that the unhappy actor expired under the lash.

The accounts given by the gazettes, are very unsatisfactory, I therefore flatter myself I shall make you an agreeable present, by transmitting the following journal; the notes were taken down on the spot by an officer, who was all day in the action, or very near it. This may suffice to evince the authenticity of the narration. I have omitted all his sarcasms upon the general, for I cannot help attributing many of them to passion and resentment; and an impartial bystander must not adopt sentiments palpably dictated by envy or disappointment.

JOURNAL OF THE SPANISH EXPEDITION

Against ALGIERS, in 1775.

THE Conde Alexander O Reilly is an Irishman, who began by a sub-lieutenancy in the regiment of Hibernia: he was major of that corps, when he obtained leave to serve a campaign in the French army in Germany. At his return, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel; and afterwards the post of adjutant or aide-major-general of exercise was created for him, in consideration of his having introduced the German exercise into our army. In the Portuguese war, the command of a
body,

body of light troops was given to O Reilly, who was made a brigadier before the end of the campaign, and soon after sent out as *mariscal de campo*, to superintend the rebuilding of the fortifications of the Havannah ; which had been lately restored to Spain, by the treaty of Fontainebleau.

His commission being ended, he returned from Cuba ; and, being named inspector-general of the Spanish infantry, formed a camp, where the king assisted at the manœuvres in person. The monarch was so well pleased with the performance, that he raised the inspector to the rank of lieutenant-general, and dispatched him to settle the disputes in New Orleans, where the French planters refused to submit to the Spanish government. He is the projector of the present scheme, and come to Carthagena to put it in execution ; being appointed commander in chief of all the troops assembled in this port. If he is successful, no doubt he will be immediately named captain-general. An order is issued out, prohibiting all discourse on the subject of this expedition, the destination of which remains a profound secret. Count O Reilly has under his command nineteen thousand eight hundred and twenty foot, and thirteen hundred and sixty-eight horse. Castéjon brings him forty-seven king's ships, of different rates, and three hundred and forty-six transports.

June

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June 15.

The procession of *Corpus Christi* passed along the mole of Carthagena, and the fleet received the benediction. The ships, drest out with flags and streamers of various colours, saluted the Host with a triple discharge of all their artillery. Our generals, O Reilly and Ricardos, came on board at five in the afternoon. We remained till the

23d,

expecting every day to sail, except that very one we actually did sail. We had seen the wind so often favourable, without our making the least motion, that I began to have my doubts about our departure; which however took place in the night between the 22d and 23d. We kept beating about before Carthagena in the utmost disorder, till the

27th,

when we bore away from that harbour; and, after two days of the strangest manœuvres ever known, by which the fleet was separated into an hundred divisions, all steering different ways, we began to suspect we were bound for Algiers.

30th.

At ten this morning, found ourselves off Cape Cercely, fifteen leagues west of Algiers. All our scattered fleet got together in the night, and made for the land, between Cape Tenez and Cape Cercely, where we lay-to the remainder

remainder of the night. We saw fires on all the hills, and along the shore; signals, no doubt, to alarm the country.

July 1st,

at three in the morning, the admiral fired a gun, for us to keep on our course, and at nine we were about six leagues from Bocmeo. At eleven, we doubled Cape Pescado, and a little before twelve, the bay of Algiers opened upon us, where we saw our men of war and missing ships lying at anchor. At one we could distinguish the town with a spying-glass. Soon after, the Algerines fired some shot from the town and castles, and hoisted several red flags. Came to an anchor in twenty-five fathom water. The rest of the fleet came up soon, and formed a most beautiful and formidable shew; but I must confess, that the fortifications of Algiers, and the dangerous appearance of the coast, were to the full as tremendous. We were in the belief, that we had seen a considerable camp on the east of the river Inrac, and about nine at night we were confirmed in our opinion, by the lighting-up of many fires; which in less than a quarter of an hour ran along, and set the whole ridge of hills in a blaze. The dead calm which then reigned, and the sweet harmony of two clarinets, that were playing aboard a neighbouring ship, made me pass a most delicious hour, and forget that all those charms were soon to be changed into horrors. Till midnight we heard a continual

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continual firing of muskets, which we were told was the Moorish method of passing the parole. I now learned that the men of war had come up the preceding evening; that our generals, disguised in sailors jackets, had reconnoitred the coast, and on their return had held a council of war.

2d.

At seven, the general sent for the captains of the transports, to withdraw a sealed paper they had received at Carthagea, which they were not to open, unless driven off by stress of weather. At five in the evening, he gave out the order for landing next morning; but the sea running rather high about eight, the expedition was put off. Our commanding officers had orders, not to send for cartridges till next day. They are to be delivered out at the rate of sixty for each soldier; which, with twenty-two he received at Barcelona, a pick-ax, a knapsack for provisions, and a tin box for vinegar and water, besides his arms, will prove an intolerable burthen at this hot season of the year.

3d.

All this day it blew a fresh gale from the E. N. E. which ruffled the sea so much, as to prevent our landing the following night, as the general had proposed. We discovered some new camps of Moors, one in particular to the eastward of Algiers, which could neither annoy us, nor succour those we intended to attack; but we inferred from

from it, they were in no want of troops, since they had posts on every side.

4th.

At noon we had notice given us, that our four companies were to pass on board another vessel, but which it was to be, we were not informed till three; when we were told that five galliots were to take in fifty men each, and the surplus to be passed on board other ships; the captains of which were ordered to send their boats for them immediately. The cartridges not being delivered, occasioned a delay of two hours, spent in great confusion. This affair being at length settled, we went on board the galliots, where we soon had a lively sense of the misery that awaited us. The orders of the day were, that the officers and soldiers should carry four days provisions; and that at eight at night they should put off, in order to be able to land next morning on the beach of the gulph of the *Badwoman*, which is five leagues west of Algiers. Our generals had so often boasted of the plenty that was to follow us ashore, that we longed with the utmost impatience for the order for landing, as we looked upon it as the only thing that could put an end to our sufferings, which hourly increased on board the galliots, whither we had carried nothing but a little bad biscuit, some cheese, and wine. Most wretched food! besides the horrid inconvenience, of not having room to lie down, or even to get up from

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the bench we first fate down upon. A dead calm all night. The breeze failed, and our landing was once more deferred, by which means both officers and men passed a cruel night.

5th.

Received orders to comply with those given out on the 2d, for the mode of disembarking, now no longer to be attempted at the gulph of the *Badwoman*; where we should, indeed, have been in the greatest danger of perishing. The very name denotes the dangers we should have had to encounter. All day a smart gale from the east, and another demur; and a second most fatiguing night for the soldiers.

6th.

The plan being now changed, we were ordered, at eight, to pass into the galliot that was to be placed on the left wing, with an hundred men of the Walloon guards on board. By some strange arrangement or other, our hundred was made up of two half companies, instead of one whole one. At ten, saw some men of war working out of the line of battle, to get near the shore. The slowness of their motion was, no doubt, regulated by the desire they had of attacking three forts on the coast, which it was deemed necessary to silence, before we could approach the land; but for what reason had this been deferred for so many days?

We had received orders to land so long ago as the 2d,
which

which would have been put in execution but for the weather, that proved unfavourable, although no such precautions had been taken, nor even any floats prepared for the artillery. Indeed since that time they had been at work patching up some rafts.

At noon, the lesser of the two Tuscan frigates bore down within half a cannon-shot of a fort that fired upon her. After having examined it, she tacked about, and came along-side of her commodore. At half past three, the *Saint Joseph* steered towards the land, and drove within reach of three batteries that began to cannonade her; she returned the fire, but theirs growing very brisk, the *Oriente* was sent to take off the shot of a fort that annoyed her very much on her starboard quarter. This engagement lasted till eight, without much harm done on either side. The *Saint Joseph* had four men killed, and some wounded, among whom was the captain slightly bruised by a splinter: some of the cannon of the fort were dismounted. The galliots towed away the two ships which were becalmed. During this action, the Tuscan frigate sailed in again close under the shore to cannonade some straggling parties of Moors, and a fort at some distance on the left. A Spanish man of war and a frigate had already attacked this fort, but had prudently placed themselves out of the reach of all mischief; their caution was exemplary, and his Catholic Majesty may safely entrust such doughty captains with

the command of his ships, being well assured they will bring them back to his ports whole and untouched. At seven, we descried three Algerine barks and about twelve shallops, with heavy cannon, bearing down upon the Saint Joseph. The half-galley of D. Ant^o Barcelò got under sail in an instant to give them chace, and was followed by five of our galliots. The chace lasted till half after eight, when the enemy retired under the cannon of Algiers. The galliot I was in was one of those sent out to tow a bombketch up to the admiral's ship; but the breeze was so strong, that we could not row against it, and were obliged to give up the point, and come alongside of the admiral to wait for our orders.

7th.

At four, saw several shallops full of troops going and coming under the stern of the admiral. The major of the Walloon guards, whom I saw upon deck, called out to me, that the affair was put off to the next day, and that he would take care to have boats for our hundred men. The poor soldiers were now quite cast down with the wretchedness of their situation; and it must be acknowledged, that to leave them four days and as many nights on a bench, exposed to the violent heats and unwholesome damps of the coast of Africa, and to give them nothing to eat but bad bread and cheese, was but a sorry preparation for an enterprize that required strength of body and vigour of mind. Their officers were not much better

better off: the master of our bark did every thing in his power to alleviate our distresses; but this kind of vessel is so exceedingly inconvenient, that we were obliged to lie on the floor; and his cookery so nauseous, that, even in our miserable condition, we never could get any thing down but a little soup.

At nine, I went on board the ship where general O Reilly was, and learned that the attack had been deferred, because many detachments had not been punctual to their hour. On this account, he ordered all the barks with the grenadiers and battalions destined for the first embarkation, to be along-side of the admiral precisely at eight in the evening, in order to set off at day-break, when the signal was to be given. The bombketches were put in readiness, and the galliots had orders to range themselves behind them exactly at ten. Our commanders seemed to intend bombarding Algiers, but the design was not put in execution, nor have I learnt the reason. 'Till ten, the boats kept rowing up to the rendezvous, whilst the rest of the fleet drew near the batteries they were to cannonade to cover our landing. Our inaction this whole day, had given the Moors time to repair the damage done the foregoing one, and to put their forts in proper order. The boats our major promised us did not yet appear, so our master told us we should have his, which, however, could only land part of us at a time.

8th. At

8th.

At half past three, the men of war began the attack, with sufficient prudence not to be under any apprehensions of the enemy's balls reaching them. The two Tuscan frigates, and the chebec commanded by Barcelò, by drawing too near the land, destroyed the beautiful uniformity of the line formed afar by our men of war and frigates; whose fire was perfectly well kept up, but unfortunately of no manner of service, on account of their vast distance from the enemy. At half after four, the admiral hung out the signal for going ashore. Seven galliots advanced to clear the beach; they were followed by seven divisions of boats, each division carrying a brigade of soldiers, which was to form itself into a line of battle six deep, as soon as landed; but the boats were thrown into confusion, as they had not been properly separated and disposed before they left the place of rendezvous. This disorder, which might have occasioned our total overthrow, would have been prevented, had we been provided with boats proper for such an operation. Luckily for us, we met with no obstacles, the least of which would have been fatal to us; and we landed about eight thousand men on the shore east of Algiers: the boats left us immediately, and went back to fetch the second division, which did not arrive till an hour after, and then only part of the troops could get on shore.

The

The grenadiers of the army drew up in front, and advanced ; but they had not marched an hundred yards before many of their men, and almost all their officers, were killed or wounded. Those next them moved forward to support them, without having time to form their ranks, a necessary consequence of the manner in which they had been put into the boats and disembarked. Some companies never could get together, having landed in different places, and by parcels. The light infantry was by this time cut to pieces. The unevenness of the ground we occupied, rendered every sandheap a small breastwork, from behind which the Africans fired upon us by platoons, as they kept retiring towards the foot of the hills, about six hundred paces from the sea, where they hid themselves among the woods and gardens.

The general now ordered the left wing to advance. It was just six o'clock, and his scheme was to march the left wing to the brow of the hill, (the right resting on the sea shore) and then to form a column and advance about a league farther, to the attack of the castle of Charles the fifth, which commands the whole town. The storming of this fort would have ensured the conquest of Algiers. Whilst our left wing marched on with an intrepidity scarce to be expected in so dangerous a position, some battalions of the center being rather before the rest, drew up in battle array, and with the Spanish guards

guards faced to the right, that they might defend us from the cavalry of the bey of Mascara. This body of horse was soon dispersed by their fire, and that of the chebec of Ant^o Barcelò. But the bey of Constantina, who commanded a large detachment of cavalry on our left, seized this opportunity to drive a herd of camels against the head of the Walloon guards. By this unexpected assault, he was in hopes of drawing off their attention, whilst he dispatched a body of fifteen thousand horse to cut off their communication with the sea, from which we were now pretty far distant. Our corps de reserve wheeling off to the left, drew up to fill the space between the sea and the column of Walloons, who were forming their lines to repel the enemies that attacked them from behind the camels; but the greatest steadiness would have availed us little, nor could we have avoided being broken and slaughtered to a man, as our formation was too weak to resist the impetuosity of such a body of horse, had not Mr. Acton, the Tuscan commander, cut his cables, and let his ships drive in to shore, just as the enemy was coming on us full gallop. The incessant fire of his great guns, loaded with grape-shot, not only stopt them in their career, but obliged them to retire with great loss.

Being delivered from this danger, we made our retreat towards the sea-side, in such disorder as must ensue from a want of proper commanders, abandoning to the fury
of

of the barbarians our unhappy fellow-soldiers, that were unable to keep up with us.

Our general had been busy for the last two hours, throwing up an entrenchment with fascines, earth-bags, and chevaux de frize. We continued the work, and, to cover our front and flanks, placed a few eight and twelve pounders, that had been of great service to us all the morning, in our different operations. We remained thus the best part of the day, pretty secure from all attacks of the Moorish cavalry, but by no means sheltered from the balls of their carabines, which, carrying at least one third farther than our firelocks, killed upwards of four hundred of our men, in this kind of camp. Here I saw our general on horseback going about to encourage the soldiers; who, stretched out on the burning sands, seemed heedless of the dangers around, and only anxious to procure a little rest to their weary limbs.

By one o'clock, the Moors had finished a battery on the right of our camp; and we were so pinched for room, and huddled together, that every shot took place. General O'Reilly, having called for a return of the killed and wounded, assembled a council of war, in which it was decided, that at four we should reembark, as the enemy was raising another battery in front, which we must pass under if we persisted in the undertaking. The Algerines, for want of experience in these matters, suffered us to accomplish our ends undisturbed; and about

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three in the morning the last division of the army re-embarked, leaving behind them fourteen field pieces, two howitzers, some chests of ammunition, and the materials of our encampment, which the enemy broke into the moment the grenadiers of the rear guard pushed off from the shore. We left on the field of battle one thousand three hundred men, and brought off three thousand desperately wounded.

There being unfortunately hospitals only for four hundred men, the boats that had landed the Walloons, were taken up for the reception of the wounded; this occasioned the greatest disorder imaginable in our battalions, who came off as well as they could, in the first boats or tartans they could meet with. They remained in this confusion above four-and-twenty hours, employed, as well as many other regiments, in getting together their disjointed companies.

The Moors, as soon as they had burst into our camp, cut off the heads of all our slain, and carried them off in bags, to demand the premium offered by the dey, for every christian head; they afterwards heaped up the corpes upon the fascines of the entrenchment, and set fire to the pile, which we saw burning for two days and two nights.

10th, and 11th.

All hurry; no water to be had, though there were ship-loads of it in the fleet.

12th. At

TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN. 43

12th.

At fix, a. m. signal for weighing anchor. Soon after most of the fleet sailed out of the bay.

15th.

At seven, a. m. came to an anchor in Alicant road.

31st.

The Walloon guards were ordered ashore, and quartered at Sanjuan.

August 10th.

We reimbarked, and

20th.

Landed at Barcelona.

L E T T E R VI.

Barcelona, November 11, 1775.

WE shall postpone our departure from this city a few days longer, to give the roads time to dry. There has been of late a very uncommon run of bad weather; it has thundered and lightened, with many showers, for several days together.

Our time has not hung heavy upon our hands, for all our acquaintance vie with each other in loading us with

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civilities.

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civilities. The intendant has shewn us every possible mark of politeness, and rendered easy to us the access to the arsenal, magazines, &c. which in this military town they are very chary of shewing to strangers.

Yesterday we took advantage of a gleam of sunshine, to accompany the consul to his villa in the *playa*. The moist warmth of the day brought out such swarms of insects as almost devoured us; I am afraid the great quantity of such vermin must make the summers in this delightful country very uncomfortable. However, it must be allowed to be a very fine climate, for, in spite of all the foulness of the sky, the air has always been mild and balmy. This plain abounds with gardens and orchards of oranges and other rich fruits. Few spots of the globe can surpass it in fertility, but they tell us wonders of the environs of Valencia and Granada.

In the afternoon the weather was heavenly, a prelude, I hope, to a total change for the better; we employed it in riding up to Saria, a convent of capuchin friars on the hills. The city and port of Barcelona appear finely from hence, collected into a most perfect landscape. The garden, on the slope of the hill, is truly romantic; the walks are shaded and sheltered by sweet-scented evergreens; streams of clear water run down on every side in all the wildness of nature, or spout through the eyes of a little Magdalen, or the *stigmata* of a Saint Francis. As the Romans had many villas on these eminences,

nences, we may presume that these limpid rills were then wont to gush out of the breasts of the Graces, or trickle from the quiver of the God of Love. Don't be surpris'd, that in November I speak feelingly of these walks being shady; I can assure you we found the rays of the sun very powerful, and relished much the shade of the bowers, and the coolness arising from the running water.

Our return to town was by an hollow way, under banks of Indian figs and aloes, when the butterflies were as brisk as in the middle of spring. The women in the little hamlets were busy with their bobbins making black lace, some of which, of the coarser kind, is spun out of the leaf of the aloe; it is curious, but of little use, for it grows mucilaginous with washing.

We pass'd by the convent of Jesus, belonging to the cordeliers or grey friars. The duke of Berwick razed it to the ground in 1714, to punish those fathers for their zeal in the revolt of Catalonia. Their present habitation is small. They have a fine spring of water, and an extensive garden surrounded with a wall of lemon-trees; adjoining is the Camposanto, where those that died in the last plague were buried. It now serves as a flower-garden, and contains some curious plants; among the rest the *aroma*, a species of *mimosa* or sponge-tree, bearing a round yellow flower with a faint musky smell, to which they attribute many odd qualities. If you
chew

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chew the seed, and breathe it out into a room, it will immediately fill it with an overcoming stench, and turn all white paint black.

Our evening ended with a ball, where we had for the first time the pleasure of seeing the Fandango danced. It is odd and entertaining enough, when they execute with precision and agility all the various footings, wheelings of the arms, and crackings of the fingers; but it exceeds in wantonness all the dances I ever beheld. Such motions, such writhings of the body and positions of the limbs, as no modest eye can look upon without a blush! A good Fandango lady will stand five minutes in one spot, wriggling like a worm that has just been cut in two.

If the day proves clear, we shall go to-morrow up the mountain to the castle.

L E T T E R VII.

Barcelona, November 12, 1775.

I Am this moment returned from the fortress of Montjuich, where the fineness of the day and the beauty of the prospect afforded me much real satisfaction; but it fell greatly short of what I felt on finding a letter from
you

you on my table. I have not met with the book you mention, nor indeed ever heard of Mr. T*** 'till now. By your account, he has not been in this part of Spain, therefore my letters as yet convey something new to you; perhaps, even in those provinces where he has travelled, the difference of our dispositions, studies, and pursuits, may strike out a sufficient fund of variety for my future correspondence, to make it entertaining to you, though you have read his tour. I am sure I shall be no plagiarist; for it is highly improbable the book should fall in my way for some time to come.

Montjuich, a name corrupted either from *Mons Jovis* or *Mons Judaicus*, is a mountain that stands single, on the south-west point of Barcelona. This eminence is happily placed for the city, as it intercepts and dissipates the putrid exhalations pumped up by the sun from the ponds near the Llobregat, which are sometimes so strong as to affect with great violence the centinels on duty. The extent of its basis is very great. Large crops of wheat are reaped on the north and east sides, and all bought up at an high price for seed-corn, the quality being particularly sound. A good deal of strong wine is made on the south-east angle; but it is said to be medicated with lime, and mahogany chips, to give it spirit and colour. The face of the mountain towards the sea is already by nature, or soon will be made by art, an insurmountable.

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surmountable precipice. The road up to the top is very steep; about half way, is the ancient burial-place of the Jews, where many large stones, with Hebrew inscriptions, are still lying scattered about the field.

Every part of the old castle is destroyed, and large works in the modern manner built upon its foundations, on the crown of the hill. From hence you command a view over the coast, plain, and harbour; not a house in Barcelona but lies exposed to your sight. They are sloping off the glacis at an incredible expence, so that no approaches can be made under shelter, as every part is open, and liable to be raked by the cannon of the batteries. All the walls are of stone, and multiplied to an extravagant number. Spain cannot afford men to garrison such overgrown fortresses.

The main body of the place is bomb proof, very neatly finished; two stone staircases, with iron railing fit for a palace, lead down to the vaulted quarters for the soldiers, which are near four hundred yards long. One of the principal bastions is scooped out into a cistern capable of containing seventy thousand cubic feet of water, of which only a small quantity is let off at a time into a draw-well, to prevent any traitor from poisoning the stock of water. Above the quarters is a grand terrace round a court, with turrets at each angle. On the center of the south line stands the tower of signals; if one ship

ship appears, a basket is hung out ; if two or more, it is raised higher, and if a Spanish man of war, they hoist a flag.

This castle has already cost immense sums in the space of fifteen years, and in all probability will not be finished in as many more, tho' above three hundred workmen are employed at the works. Each new engineer alters the plan and counteracts the scheme of his predecessor, which occasions such a delay and waste of treasure as is scarce to be credited.

Besides the inconvenience of requiring so large a gar-
rison, the situation appears to me too elevated to annoy
an enemy encamped in the plain.

L E T T E R VIII.

Barcelona, November 17, 1775.

I Expected to have been by this time in the kingdom
of Valencia ; but the badness of the mountain-road
having determined us to take the new one, along the
coast, we last Wednesday hired mules for Montserrat,
which is not in the line of that lower route. This has
retarded our departure for some days.

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For

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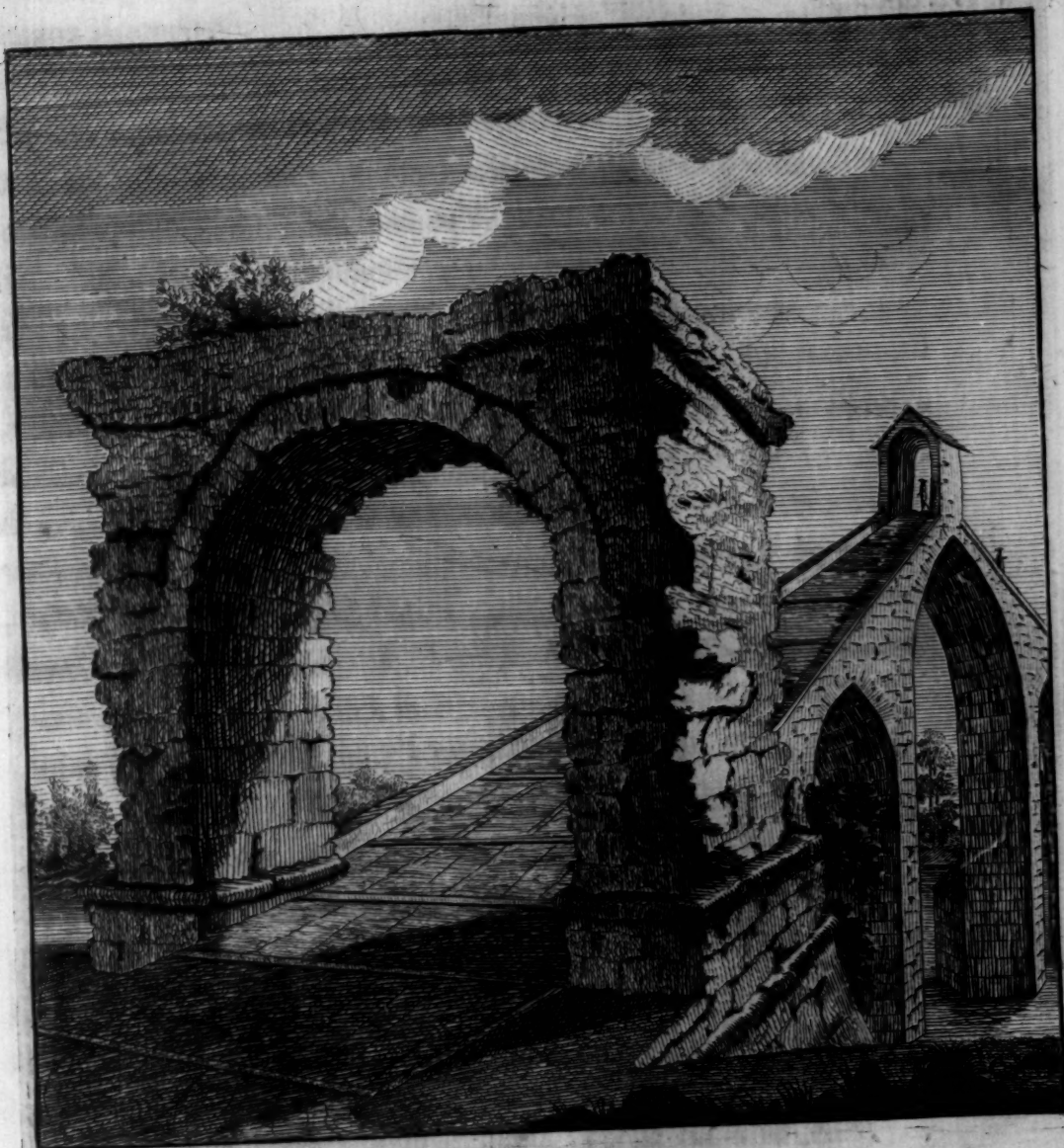
For about five or six miles the road is finished with a magnificence equal to the best in France, but after that, it relapses into its original state; however, though rough for carriages, it is very soft and pleasant for riding. The country up the Llobregat is well cultivated, but subject to frequent inundations, that make cruel havock. As you approach the mountain, the number of vineyards diminishes, that of olive-grounds increases.

At Martorel, a large town, where much black lace is manufactured, is a very high bridge with Gothic arches, built in 1768, as we are informed by the inscription, out of the ruins of a decayed one, that had existed 1985 years from its erection, by Hannibal, in the 535th year of Rome. At the north end is a triumphal arch or gateway, said to have been raised by that general in honour of his father Hamilcar. It is almost entire, well proportioned, and simple, without any kind of ornament, except a rim or two of hewn stone. The large stone-casing is almost all fallen off.

After dinner we continued our journey through Espalungera, a long village full of cloth and lace manufacturers; and about three arrived at the foot of the mountain of Montserrat³, one of the most singular in the world, for situation, shape, and composition. It

³ Monte ferrado means a mountain sawed; and the arms of the abbey are, the Virgin Mary sitting at the foot of a rock half cut through by a saw.

stands



H.S. del. et sc. 1775.

HANNIBAL'S ARCH.

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE,
January 10, 1900.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE,
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 1, 1899.
ALBANY:
J. B. LEECH, STATE PRINTER,
1899.



stands single, towering over an hilly country, like a pile of grotto work or Gothic spires. Its height is about three thousand three hundred feet.

We ascended by the steepest road, as that for carriages winds quite round, and requires half a day's travelling. After two hours tedious ride from east to west, up a narrow path cut out of the side of gullies and precipices, we reached the highest part of the road, and turned round the easternmost point of the mountain, near the deserted hermitage of Saint Michael. Here we came in sight of the convent, placed in a nook of the mountain; it seems as if vast torrents of water, or some violent convulsion of nature, had split the eastern face of Montserrat, and formed in the cleft a sufficient platform to build the monastery upon. The Llobregat roars at the bottom, and perpendicular walls of rock, of prodigious height, rise from the water edge near half-way up the mountain. Upon these masses of white stone rests the small piece of level ground which the monks inhabit. Close behind the abbey, and in some parts impending over it, huge cliffs shoot up in a semicircle to a stupendous elevation; their summits are split into sharp cones, pillars, pipes, and other odd shapes, blanched and bare; but the interstices are filled up with forests of evergreen and deciduous trees and plants. Fifteen hermitages are placed among the woods; nay, some of them on the very pinnacles of the rocks, and in cavities hewn out of the

loftiest of these pyramids. The prospect is not only astonishing, but absolutely unnatural. These rocks are composed of limestones of different colours, glued together by a sand, and a yellow calcarious earth. In some parts they consist of freestone and white quartz, mixed with some touchstone. There may perhaps be reason to suspect fire to have been a principal agent in the formation of this insulated mountain.

Having brought a letter for the abbot, whom we found a polite, sensible ecclesiastic, a native of Estremadura, we were lodged and entertained in the convent. I cannot say much in favour of the cookery; it cost us some wry faces to get down the saffron soup and spiced ragouts. After dinner a plate of caraways, and a salver of wine, was handed about; which brought to my mind the treat Justice Shallow offers Sir John Falstaff in his orchard.

This is one of the forty-five religious houses of the Spanish congregation of the order of Saint Benedict; their general chapter is held every fourth year at Valladolid, where the deputies choose abbots and other dignitaries for the ensuing Quadrennium. In this monastery, they elect for abbot a Catalan and a Castilian alternately. Their possessions are great, consisting of nine villages lying to the south of the mountain; but the king has lately curtailed their income about six thousand livres a year, by appropriating to his own use the best house

house in each village, some of which, with their tythes, are worth 200 dollars per annum. Their original foundation, in 866, gave them nothing but the mountain; and to donations and œconomy they owe the great increase of their landed property. They are bound to feed and harbour, for three days, all pilgrims that come up to pay their homage to the Virgin; the allowance is a luncheon of bread in the morning, as much more, with broth, at noon, and bread again at night. About three years ago, the king proposed to them to abolish this obligation of hospitality, on condition that the convent should subscribe a fixed sum towards the establishment of a poor-house in Barcelona. The principals of the abbey were inclined to accept of the proposal, but the mob of monks opposed it vehemently; and, such a scheme being very contrary to the interests of the miraculous image, she resented it highly, and, according to her old custom, vanished in anger from the altar. Soon after, she was discovered in the cave where she was originally found, nor would she stir, till the intended innovation was overruled. It was thought expedient to wink at this juggling, not to alarm the common people, who are not sufficiently enlightened to see through such gross impositions.

The number of professed monks is 76, of lay-brothers 28, and of singing-boys 25, besides physician, surgeon, and servants.

Having

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Having breakfasted very early, a German monk waited upon us to shew us the church. It is gloomy, and the gilding much sullied with the smoke of eighty-five lamps of silver, of various forms and sizes, that hang round the cornice of the sanctuary. Funds have been bequeathed by different devotees for furnishing them with oil.

The choir above stairs is decorated with the life of Christ in good wooden carving. A gallery runs on each side of the chancel, for the convenience of the monks. A large iron grate divides the church from the chapel of the Virgin, where the image stands, in a nich over the altar, before which burn four tapers in large silver candlesticks, the present of the duke of Medina Celi. In the sacristy, and passages leading to it, are presses and cupboards full of relicks and ornaments, of gold, silver, and precious stones; they pointed out to us, as the most remarkable, two crowns for the Virgin and her Son, of inestimable value, some large diamond rings, an excellent cameo of Medusa's head, the Roman emperors in alabaster, the sword of Saint Ignatius, and the chest that contains the ashes of a famous brother, John Guarin, of whom they relate the same story as that given in the Spectator of a Turkish fanton and the sultan's daughter. They differ however in the following circumstance—The Catalan anchoret repents of his crime, and lives seven years on all fours like a wild beast. The earl of Barcelona, whose daughter John had ravished and murdered,
catches

catches the savage in his hunting-toils, and brings him as a shew to the city ; when behold ! the earl's son, only a month old, speaks aloud, and bids John arise, for his sins are forgiven. The easy prince pardons him also, and all of them go in quest of the body of the Princess. To their great astonishment, they meet her restored to life by the Virgin Mary, and as beautiful and young as ever. It is not said that she recovered her virginity ; that is a miracle never once attempted by any saint in the calendar ; however, she liked the mountain so well, that she there founded a monastery, in which she ended her days as a nun.

Immense is the quantity of votive offerings to this miraculous statue ; and, as nothing can be rejected or otherwise disposed of, the shelves are crowded with most whimsical *Ex votos*, viz. silver legs, fingers, breasts, earrings, watches, two-wheeled chaises, boats, carts, and such-like trumpery.

From the sacristy we went up to the *Camarines*, small rooms behind the high altar, hung with paintings, several of which are very good. A strong silver-plated door being thrown open, we were bid to lean forward, and kiss the hand of *Nuestra Senora*. It is half worn away by the eager kisses of its votaries, but we could not ascertain whether it be marble or silver, as it is painted black. The face of the mother is regularly handsome, but the colour of a negro-woman.

Having

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Having seen every place about the convent, where they are now building a new wing, and blasting a great deal of the rock to enlarge the gardens, we set out for the hermitages, and took the short way, up a crevice between two huge masses of rock, where in rainy weather the waters dash down in furious torrents. We counted six hundred holes or steps, so steep and perpendicular that from below we did not discern the least track. A hand-rail, and a few seats to take breath upon, enabled us to perform this scalade. Soon after, we arrived, through a wilderness of evergreens, at the narrow platform where the first hermit dwells. His cells, kitchen, chapel, and gardens, are admirably neat and romantic, built upon various patches of level on the tops of precipices. The view from it is wild, and in such a fine clear morning most delightful. The hermit seemed a cheerful, simple old man, in whose mind forty years retirement had obliterated all worldly ideas. The hermits are all clad in brown habits, and wear long beards; their way of life is uncomfortable, and their respective limits very much confined. They rise at two every morning, ring out their bell, and pray till it is time to go to mass at the hermitage, called the *Parish*; it is always said at break of day: some of them have above two hours walk down to it. The convent allows them bread, wine, salt, oil, one pair of shoes, and one pair of stockings a year, with twenty-five reals a month for other necessaries. A couple
of

of men are kept to assist them in their labour, each in their turn. A mule carries up their provisions twice a week, and is occasionally driven to Barcelona for salt-fish, and other things, which they buy by clubbing together. They get some helps from the convent, in return for flowers, greens, &c. which they send down as presents. They never eat meat, or converse with each other: their noviceship is very severe, for they must undergo six months service in the infirmary of the abbey, one year among the novices, and six years further trial, before they are suffered to go up to an hermitage; which they cannot obtain but by the unanimous consent of the whole chapter. They make every vow of the monks, and, over and above, one of never quitting the mountain; but none of them are allowed to enter into orders. Their first habitation is always the most remote from the convent, and they descend according as vacancies happen in the lower cells.

Having left a small present in the chapel-window, we continued our walk: wherever the winding paths are level, nothing can be more agreeable than to saunter through the close woods and sweet wilderesses that fill up the spaces between the rocks. It is impossible to give you an adequate idea of the sublime views and uncouth appearance of the different parts of the mountain; a painter or a botanist might wander here many days with pleasure and profit. There are few evergreens in Eu-

rope that may not be found here, besides a great variety of deciduous plants. The apothecary of the house has a list of four hundred and thirty-seven species of plants, and forty of trees. The greatest hardship here is a scarcity of good water. Except one spring at the parish, and another at the convent, they have no other than cistern-water, and that bad enough; this in summer is a terrible inconvenience, and gives the lye to the florid descriptions I have read of the purling streams and beautiful cascades tumbling down on every side from the broken rocks. The want of water is so great, that neither wolf, bear, nor other wild beast, is ever seen on the mountain.

The second hermitage we came to, stands on a point of the rock, over a precipice that descends almost to the very bed of the river; my head was near turning with looking down. The prospect is inimitably grand, extending over the northern and eastern parts of the province, which are very hilly and bare, bounded by the mountains of Rouffillon. The true Pyreneans appear only through some breaks in that chain. Manresa, where Inigo de Loyola made his first spiritual retreat, is the principal town in the view. In a clear day, they assured us they could see Majorca, which is one hundred and eighty-one miles distant. Upon the round rock that hangs over the hermit's cell was formerly a castle, with its cisterns and drawbridge, where some banditti harboured.

ed. From this strong hold they made excursions to pillage the neighbouring vallies. By rolling down stones, they kept the monks in perpetual alarm, and obliged them to send up whatever provisions were wanted in the garrison. At last, a few miquelets climbed up the rock from tree to tree, like so many squirrels, surprized the fort, and destroyed this nest of robbers. In commemoration of this event, the hermitage is dedicated to Saint Dimas, a saint, I presume, you never heard of in your life. You must know he is the good thief in the gospel.

At la Trinidad, the next cell we walked to, the monks by turns go up to pass a few days in summer by way of recreation. The hermit has many rooms, and is allowed a boy to wait upon him. He gave us a glass of good Sitges wine, and a pinch of admirable snuff, made from tobacco raised in his own garden. The officers of the customs have extended their tyranny even to these solitudes, and sent orders that no more tobacco be suffered to grow.

Having scrambled up to one or two more hermitages, we found our curiosity satisfied, as, except in point of extensiveness of prospect, they varied very little from those we had already seen; and therefore we turned down another path, which led us to the dwelling of the vicar, a monk who during four years takes upon him the direction of the hermits.

Lower down we arrived at Santa Cecilia, the parish church, where every morning the silent inhabitants of this *Thebais* meet to hear mass, and perform divine service, and twice a week to confess and communicate.

About eleven, we got down to the abbey for dinner; and, having received the customary donation of blessed crosses and holy medals, mounted our mules and came to lie at Martorel. We reached Barcelona early this morning, and have been ever since making ready for our departure.

L E T T E R IX.

Barcelona, November 18, 1775.

ALL our affairs are settled for beginning our journey to Valencia to-morrow afternoon. We have agreed with a master muleteer, to furnish us with mules at the rate of fifteen reales de vellon a day for each mule, clear of all other expences whatever. If we part with him at Valencia, he is to be paid for his return, eight days; if at Alicant, ten; at Cadiz, thirty; at Madrid, fifteen; and at Lisbon, thirty. We have also hired a miquelet, compleatly accoutred, to attend us. You see we are fitted

ted out in good earnest for a long journey, which I hope will afford us some pleasant hours, to compensate for the trouble and fatigue that we foresee must frequently fall to our share. I believe you are not sorry to find I am on the point of leaving Catalonia, which must by this time be a subject my frequent letters have rendered rather tiresome to you; however, I entreat your indulgence one letter more, while I endeavour to bring together the remarks I have made on the character of this people, and all the material information my friends have furnished me with.

Catalonia is almost throughout extremely mountainous. The nature of the country appears to have great influence on that of the inhabitants, who are a hardy, active, industrious race, of a middle size, brown complexion, and strong features; their limbs well knit together, and by education and practice inured to the greatest fatigues; there are few lame or distorted persons, or beggars, to be met with among them. Their *Mocos* or mule-boys are stout walkers; some of them have been known to go from Barcelona to Madrid, and back again, in nine days, which by the high road is six hundred miles.

The loss of all their immunities, the ignominious prohibition of every weapon, even a knife, and an enormous load of taxes, have not been able to stifle their independent spirit, which breaks out upon the least stretch of arbitrary power; but within these few years, many of
their

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their ancient privileges have been gradually restored; and this is at present one of the most flourishing provinces of Spain. Their taxation is still very high. All trade is assessed according to the business you are supposed to transact in the course of the year, without regard to your loss or gain. One mode of collecting the revenue is somewhat singular;—the intendant (who manages all the finances, and, besides numberless emoluments and secret profits, receives one third of all seizures of contraband goods) has a certain number of clerks or apprentices, with a stipend for each allowed by the king. These young men are sent out into the villages to gather the taxes; an operation which they spin out to the utmost, as their profits, and those of their master, are increased by every delay, the communities being obliged to find them food, lodging, and two pesos a day. When the peasantry of a place proves refractory or dilatory in its payment, an order is given by the treasurer to an officer, who goes with his soldiers to the spot, to receive his own and his regiment's pay, and live at discretion upon the poor wretches until full satisfaction be made.

Amongst other restrictions, the use of flouched hats, white shoes, and large brown cloaks, is forbidden. Till of late, they durst not carry any kind of knife; but in each public house there was one chained to the table, for the use of all comers. The good order maintained by the police, and the vigilance of the thieftakers, supply the
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the place of defensive weapons, robberies and murders being seldom heard of; you may walk the streets of Barcelona at all hours unarmed, without the least apprehension, provided you have a light; without it you are liable to be carried to prison by the patrol.

The minones, or thieftakers, are men of trust and consideration, and of approved courage; their dress is that of the miquelets or mountaineers, who so cruelly harassed the French armies in the wars at the beginning of our century. They wear their hair in a net; a broad silver-laced hat, squeezed flat like those of the English sailors, hung on one side of their head; an handkerchief loosely tied round the neck; a short striped waistcoat, and over it a red jacket, with large silver buttons like bells dangling from it; a blue skirt, bound with yellow tape, rolled several times round their waist, in which they carry their knife, handkerchief, &c. Over this jacket they wear two cross belts, one for an ammunition-pouch, the other for their broad sword and pistols; on the left shoulder hangs a blue great coat embroidered with white thread; their breeches are blue and white striped; their stockings, rolled below the knee, and gartered with an enormous buckle, and bunch of black ribbons, reach only down to the ankle, where they tie several rounds of blue fillet very tight, to keep on their packthread sandals, that seem scarce to cover their toes.

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The common dress of a Catalan sailor or muleteer is brown, and the distinctive mark by which they are known in Spain, is a red woollen cap, falling forwards, like that of the ancient Phrygians. The middling sort of people and artificers wear hats and dark cloaths, with an half-wide coat carelessly tossed over the shoulders.

The dress of the women is a black silk petticoat over a little hoop, shoes without heels, bare shoulders, and a black veil stiffened out with wire, so as to arch out on each side of the head, something resembling the hooded serpent.

The Catalans are excellent for light infantry, on the forlorn hope, or for a *coup de main*; but tho' brave and indefatigable, they are averse to the strictness of regular discipline, unless it be in their own national regiments. They cannot brook the thoughts of being menial servants in their own country, but will rather trudge it all over with a pedlar's pack on their shoulders, or run about upon errands, than be the head domestic in a Catalan family. Far from home they make excellent servants, and most of the principal houses of Madrid have Catalans at the head of their affairs. They are the general muleteers and caleffieros of Spain; you meet with them in every part of the kingdom: their honesty, steadiness, and sobriety, entitle them to the confidence of travellers, and their thirst after lucre makes them bear with

with any hardships. With good words, you will always find them docile, but they cannot bear hard usage or opprobrious language.

Those that remain at home for the labours of the field, are exceedingly industrious. Their corn-harvest is in May or early in June; but, as those crops are liable to frequent burstings and mildews, they have turned their attention more to the vine, which they plant even upon the summits of their most rugged mountains. In many places, they carry up earth to fix the young set in; and in others, have been known to let one another down from the brow of the rock by ropes, rather than suffer a good patch of soil to remain useless. Their vintages are commonly very plentiful. This autumn, there was such a superabundance of grapes in the valley of Talarn, in the neighbourhood of Pallas, that whole vineyards were left untouched for want of vessels to make or hold the wine in; notice was pasted upon the church-doors, that any one was at liberty to take away what quantity he pleased, on paying a small acknowledgment to the proprietors. The best red wine of Catalonia is made at Mataw, north of Barcelona, and the best white at Sitges, between that city and Tarragona.

The scarcity of corn is sometimes very great, the principality not producing above five months provision. Without the importation from America, Sicily, and the north of Europe, it would run the risk of being famished.

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From four hundred thousand to six hundred thousand quarters of wheat are annually imported. Canada alone sent this year about eighty thousand quarters. There are public ovens, where the bakers are bound by contract to bake every day into bread one thousand bushels of flour, or more, at a stated price, and, in case the other bakers should refuse to work, they are under the obligation of furnishing the city with bread.

The number of the inhabitants of Barcelona is made to amount to one hundred and fifty thousand souls, and those of Barceloneta to ten thousand; but, although trade and population have increased surprizingly in the course of a few years, I doubt there is some exaggeration in this reckoning.

The great export-commerce consists in wine, brandies, salt, and oil, which are mostly taken in by foreign ships at the little ports and roads along the coast, and not brought to be shipped off at the capital.

There are mines of lead, iron, and coal, in the mountains, but they are ill wrought, and turn to poor account. The manufactures are of more importance. Barcelona supplies Spain with most of the cloathing and arms for the troops. This branch of business is carried on with much intelligence; they can equip a battalion of six hundred men compleatly in a week.

A great trade is driven in silk handkerchiefs, stockings, &c.; in woollens of various qualities; in silk and thread

thread lace; in fire-arms. The gun-barrels of Barcelona are much esteemed, and cost from four to twenty guineas, but about five is the real value; all above is paid for fancy and ornament: they are made out of the old shoes of mules. Several manufactures of printed linens are established here, but have not yet arrived at any great elegance of design or liveliness of colour.

The imports are, besides corn, about eighty thousand hundred-weight of Newfoundland cod, which pays three pesettas per hundred-weight duty, and sells upon an average at a guinea; beans from Holland, for the poor people, and an inferior sort from Africa, for the mules; salted conger eel from Cornwall and Britany, sold at forty or fifty shillings per quintal; this is an unwholesome, luscious food, which they cook up with garlick and spices: English bale goods, and many foreign articles of necessity or luxury. House-rent and living are dear; provisions but indifferent: the fish is flabby and insipid; the meat poor; but the vegetables are excellent, especially brocoli and cauliflower. I believe their meat and fish are much better in summer than at this season of the year.

The devotion of the Catalans seems to be pretty much upon a par with that of their neighbours in the southern provinces of France, and, I am told, much less ardent than we shall find it as we advance into Spain; but they still abound with strange practices of religion and local worship. One very odd idea of theirs is, that on the 1st

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of November, the eve of All Souls, they run about from house to house to eat chefnuts, believing that for every chefnut they swallow, with proper faith and unction, they shall deliver a soul out of purgatory.

The influx of foreigners, increase of commerce, and protection granted to the liberal arts, begin to open the understanding of this people, who have made great strides of late towards sense and philosophy.

There are now but one or two churches at most, in each city, that are allowed the privilege of protecting offenders, and murderers are excluded from the benefit of the sanctuary. The proceedings of the Inquisition are grown very mild. If any person leads a scandalous life, or allows his tongue unwarrantable liberties, he is summoned by the Holy Office, and privately admonished; in case of non-amendment he is committed to prison. Once a year you must answer to that tribunal for the orthodoxy of your family, and of every servant you have, or they must quit the country; but the foreign protestant houses are passed over unnoticed. Avoid talking on the subject of religion, and with a little discretion you may live here in what manner you please.

Every Jew that lands in Spain must declare himself to be such at the Inquisition; which immediately appoints a familiar to attend him all the time he stays ashore, to whom he pays a pistole a day. Were he to neglect giving this information, he would be liable to be seized. Yet I
have

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have been assured by persons of undoubted credit, that a Jew may travel incognito from Perpignan to Lisbon, and sleep every night at the house of a Jew, being recommended from one to another; and that you may take it for granted, that wherever you see a house remarkably decked out with images, relics, and lamps, and the owner noted for being the most enthusiastic devotee of the parish, there it is ten to one but the family are Israelites at heart.

If a stranger is desirous of becoming acquainted with Spain, the manners and disposition of its inhabitants, he must proceed further; for I am told this province bears so little resemblance to the rest of the kingdom, that he will derive no real knowledge on that score from travelling in Catalonia. Here it is not uncommon to hear them talk of a journey into Spain, as they would of one into France; and their language is not understood by the Spaniards, being a dialect of the ancient Limosine tongue, a kind of Gascon.

I cannot close this sketch of the character of the modern Catalans more properly, than with the epitaph of their countrymen who served under Sertorius, and after the murder of that great man, disdaining to obey another leader, sacrificed themselves to his manes. It is taken from the annals of Catalonia.

Hic

⁴ *Hic multæ quæ se manibus
 Q. Sertorii Turmæ et Terræ
 Mortalium omnium Parenti
 devovere dum eo sublato
 superesse tæderet et fortiter
 pugnando invicem cecidere
 Morte ad præsens optata jacent.
 Valete Posterî.*

L E T T E R X.

Reus, November 24, 1775.

WE left Barcelona on Sunday the 19th instant. Our first day's journey was very short; the road good, but made upon too expensive a plan to be continued far. The bridge over the Llobregat is grand, but unluckily so placed as never to be seen by travellers in an oblique direction.

⁴ Here lie the bones of many companies of soldiers, who devoted themselves to the manes of Q. Sertorius, and to the common mother Earth, as loathing all thoughts of surviving him. Fighting bravely with each other, they fell, and met the death which they then wished for. Farewell Posterity.

We

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We stopped at Cipreret, a neat house in a wild mountainous country, with a few pines scattered about, seldom enough to form a grove, much less a wood. We here for the first time saw a true Spanish kitchen, viz. an hearth raised above the level of the floor under a wide funnel, where a circle of muleteers were huddled together over a few cinders.

Next morning we passed a broad glen or hollow, over which they intended to convey the high road in a strait line, by means of a bridge of three rows of arches one above the other. Had they turned a little to the left by a gradual slope, the descent had been trifling, and a single arch sufficient for the passage of the water. This great work has failed, and seems abandoned. I should suspect they built here for the diversion of future antiquaries, not for the use of the present generation, which feels all the weight of the expence, without reaping any benefit from such ill-calculated undertakings. In the present state of things the pass is very dangerous, and further on the road grows worse, in a large forest of pines, where the rocks and gullies render it next to impossible for a carriage to get through without damage. On account of the great number of bridges necessary among these broken hills, and of the obstinacy with which the engineers (whose profits increase by delays and difficulties) persist in carrying the road strait through rocks and torrents, the work
advances.

advances so slowly, that before a second mile be finished, the first is ruined for want of repairs.

The country at the foot of the mountains is fertile and populous. About Villa Franca de Panades the soil is remarkably light. The husbandmen shovel up the stubble, weeds, and tops of furrows, into small heaps, which they burn, then spread them out upon the ground, and work them in with a plough, which is little more than a great knife fastened to a single stick, that just scratches the surface. In this country all the corn is trod out of the sheaf by means of horses and mules driven backwards and forwards over it on a stone or stucco area.

In the evening we passed by torch-light under a Roman arch, which I returned next morning to examine, our inn not being more than a mile beyond it. This arch is almost entire, elegant in its proportions, and simple in its ornaments; the gateway lofty; the entablature is supported on each side by four fluted Corinthian pilasters. All I could read of the inscription was EX TEST; which Flores, in his *Espana sagrada*, makes out to be part of

EX TESTAMENTO L. LICINII. L. F. SERGII. SURAE
CONSECRATUM.

This Licinius was thrice consul under Trajan, and was famous for his extraordinary wealth. No reasonable conjecture





jecture has been made why he ordered by his will this monument to be erected, or what was the use of it when built. Some think it was the entrance of the Campus Tarraconensis, and that a wall ran from the sea, which is about half a mile distant to the south-east, through the olive-grounds quite up to the hills. There appear some remnants of a wall in that direction, but I won't pretend to say they are of so ancient a date.

The next day was the most delightful of our whole journey. The sun shone out in all his splendor; the sea was smooth and calm; the prospect was incessantly varying as we moved on, sometimes along the rich level on the shore, where the bushy heads and glossy leaves of the lowest trees, contrasted with the pale green of the olive-woods, made it appear quite a summer scene; sometimes over gentle eminences, from which we commanded views of numberless bays and promontories, crowned with towers and antique fortifications. The little river Gaya distributes its waters in stone channels to all parts of the valley, and gives vigour to its productions, which otherwise would be parched up by the drought. Here the tender olive-sets are nursed up in long baskets, till they get out of the reach of goats and other enemies. As we descended the hill of Bara to the beach, Tarragona presented itself to our view, like a ruined fortress, on a round point projecting into the sea; and a little further on we turned off the road to the right, into a wood of pines

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and

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and shrubs, to visit a monument that tradition has named the tomb of the Scipios. They were the father and uncle of Scipio Africanus, both killed in Spain.

This building is small, being about nineteen feet square and twenty-eight high. In the front, facing the sea, are two statues of warriors in a mournful posture, roughly cut out of the stones of the sepulchre, and much worn away by the sea air. The inscription is so much defaced, that it is hard to make any thing of it: what remains is as follows:

ORN...TE...EAQVE....L..O...VNVS...VER..BVSTVS...I..S..NEGL.
VI...VA..FL...BVS.,SIBI..PERPETVO. REMANERE.

I think it has been erected by some priest, for himself and family, as the fragments of the last line may be interpreted in that manner. Some take the first word of the first line to have been Cornelius, a name belonging to the Scipios. The top of the monument, which probably ended in a pyramidal form, is fallen off^s.

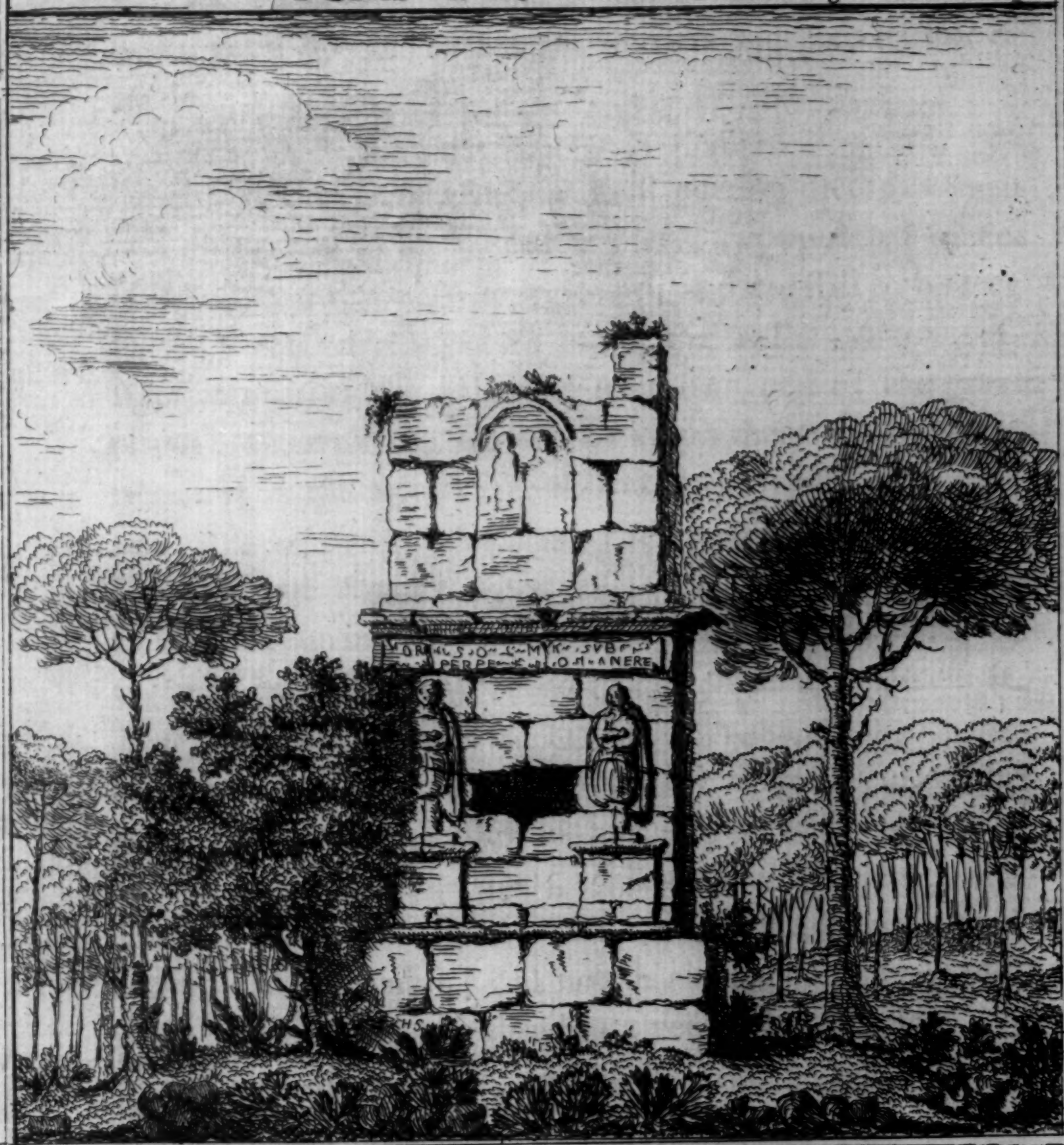
From the heavy sands of the sea-shore, where a great many fishermen were hauling in their nets, we ascended the naked rock of Tarragona. It produces nothing but the dwarf palm or palmeto. This plant grows among the stones to the height of one or two feet: the leaves are stiff and sharp, spread out like fingers, or the sticks of a

^s The tomb of Theron, at Girgenti in Sicily, resembles this in form:

fan,

Plate. VI.

TOMB of the SCIPIOS near Tarragona 1775





fan, and very much resembling the leaves of the date palm. This also produces fruit, and the insipid pith of its root is a favourite eating of the peasants. The leaves make good brooms and ropes, and are a great fattener of cattle.

The ancient Tarraco is now contracted to a very trifling city, that covers only a small portion of the Roman inclosure, and is an ill-built, dirty, depopulated place. Many antiquities have been found, and are still to be seen in the town, and almost all round the walls. A few vestiges remain of the palace of Augustus, and of the great circus: an arch or two of the amphitheatre, and some steps cut in the solid rock, still exist, impending over the sea. About three miles from the city, is the Puente de Ferriera, an ancient aqueduct, which we did not go to see, not having heard of it till we had passed too far on to turn back. Father Flores has given a plate of it. The cathedral, dedicated to Saint Thecla, is ugly, but the new chapel of that tutelary saint is beautiful. The inside is cased with yellow and brown marbles, dug up in the very center of the town, and ornamented with white foliages and bas-reliefs. The architecture is accounted heavy, but I confess I did not think that fault very glaring. The whole together has a very pleasing effect.

In Queen Anne's war, the English were in possession of this post, and intended to keep and fortify it, by bringing the river Francolis quite round it. For this purpose

they threw up vast outworks and redoubts, of which the ruins are yet very visible. Having secured Minorca and Gibraltar, they renounced the project of fixing a garrison in Tarragona.

From this city we descended into the Campo Tarragonés, a plain of about nine miles diameter, one of the most fruitful spots in Europe: there is not an uncultivated part in the whole extent. The abundance and excellence of its productions have induced all the foreign houses settled in Barcelona to establish agents and factors at Reus, the principal town, pretty near the center of the plain.

Here we have again been loaded with civilities by our friends, and detained some days in feasts and amusements. Indeed the crazy vehicle our servants travel in, contributed much toward the facility with which we yielded to their entreaties; for, about an hundred yards before we reached this place, both its shafts snapped in two, so that very little, except the hind wheels and some braces, now remains of the original carriage that left Pascal's coach-house, in the Rue Guenegaud, at Paris.

It has blown for three days a most bitter north wind; the frost is pinching and the ice thick, but no kind of vegetation seems affected by it, and the sun shines out burning hot every day.

Reus increases daily in size and population; the number

ber of its inhabitants has within these fifteen years risen above two thirds, and now amounts to twenty thousand souls. The suburbs are already twice as large as the old town. They have begun to build a very pretty theatre, and have engaged a company of comedians.

Wines and brandies are the staple commodities of Reus: of the former, the best for drinking are produced on the hills belonging to the Carthusians; those of the plain are fittest for burning. The annual exports are about twenty thousand pipes of brandy, all very pale, but afterwards, by mixtures in Guernsey and Holland, brought to the proper colour for our market. There are four degrees of proof or strength—common, oil, Holland, and spirit. Brandy of common proof froths in the glass in pouring out, and remains so. Oil proof is when oil sinks in the brandy. Five pipes of wine make one of strong brandy, and four make one of weak. The king's duty is ten pesettas a pipe on the high proofs, and twelve on the low: the town dues come to three sols, and both duties are paid by the exporter. This branch of trade employs about one thousand stills in the Campo, of which number the town contains an hundred and fifty. It is all carried in carts, at half a crown a pipe, down to *Salo*, an open but safe road five miles off. Here it is left on the beach till it pleases the Catalan sailors to float it off to the ships: as they are paid by the year, they only work when they choose, and in fair pleasant weather.

weather. Nuts are likewise an article of exportation, upwards of sixty thousand bushels from the woods at the foot of the west mountains having been shipped off last year. Every thing here wears the face of business, but it is greatly at the expence of the inland villages, many of which are left almost destitute of inhabitants.

Not far behind the mountains that surround this plain stands a rich convent of Bernardine monks. Had the weather been milder we should have paid them a visit, there being many fine views and natural curiosities in its neighbourhood. As they are far removed from the eye of the world, we have been assured that they lead a most dissolute life: the immense lordships they possess are said to serve as so many nurseries and seraglios for them, where the wives and daughters of their vassals are humbly devoted to their pleasures. A modest woman would run great risk of being insulted by the lusty friars, should she venture within their territories without proper attendance. Some years ago, a set of wild young officers, who owed the holy fathers a grudge, carried thither a bevy of common strumpets dressed out like ladies, and contrived matters so, that while the men of the party went up the hills to see prospects, the females were left to be comforted by the Bernardines. The hot-livered monks employed the time of absence to the best advantage, but smarted so severely for the favours they obtained from the good-humoured nymphs, that for many months afterwards

wards the chief dignitaries of the house were dispersed about in the neighbouring towns, under the care of the barber-furgeons.

LETTER XI.

Nules, November 29, 1775.

YOU will not find upon the common maps the name of the place I date this from, though it is a considerable town, inclosed with walls and towers *alla morisca*, with two handsome suburbs. This is all I can tell you of it, as we are just arrived by moon-light. I am now melting with heat, and sitting close to the window for air, but I fear the twanging of a wretched guitar will soon drive me away. How wonderfully fortunate we have been in the weather! not a drop of rain on the road from Perpignan hither, and we are to reach Valencia to-morrow.

Last Saturday we took an affectionate leave of our friends, and left Reus loaded with provisions of all sorts. The road through the plain hollow and bad, the view confined on every side by groves of locust and olive trees, till we entered the desert near the sea-shore, at
a ruined

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a ruined tower called the *Casa yerma*. In the afternoon we came through a rocky pass under the fort of Balaguer, lately built to command the defile and the coast. The evening journey lay among bleak uncomfortable hills, covered with low shrubs, where nothing but the prospect of the sea, and watch-towers placed as beacons along the shore, afforded the least variety; the road most abominably rough and trying for carriages. The approach of night, and the danger of venturing in such broken ways in the dark, obliged us to stop at the Venta del Platero, a hovel that *beggars all description*; so superlatively wretched, that I thought an exact drawing of its outward appearance would be a real curiosity. We were lodged in part of a ground-floor, the remainder of which was occupied by the mules and pigs; the servants slept in the carriages. A pool of water behind the house, and above the level of our floor, made our apartment so damp, that the next morning our cloaths might have been wrung. Thanks to the wholesomeness of the climate, we felt no bad effects from it. Several companies of fishermen, that hawk their fish about these scattered cottages, kept all night a perpetual knocking at the gate of our court, and brought to my mind very lively ideas of the enchanted castles of Don Quixote.

As soon as it was light we left our inn, and found the waste grow more and more barren. The steepness and roughness of the descents made the road excessively jolting

ing and dangerous; the chaises cracked and groaned, and we either rode on horseback, or walked, all the way. Torrents that rush from the adjoining ridge of mountains, after every heavy shower, have swept away all bridges and causeways, and washed the road to the very rock. We passed through Parillo, a small village, which is the usual baiting-place, and seems, by the ruins near it, to have been formerly a place of greater consequence than it is at present.

In a few hours we emerged from this desert, which is at least ten leagues long. In some places it produces locust and olive trees, which, when the underwood is cleared away, and the earth moved about the roots, become productive of good fruit. A little turn of the road to the west brought us in sight of the mouth of the Ebro, which appears to waste itself before it reaches the sea, by running through various channels, in a tract of flat lands containing near one hundred thousand acres. This land is very capable of improvement, and the ministry have actually before them a plan for draining these grounds, and properly distributing the waste water for the purposes of cultivation. There are two good harbours at the mouth of the river, which is navigable for vessels of fifty tons, up as far as Tortosa, and for small craft much higher, into the kingdom of Arragon. The waters of the Ebro, though muddy, are constantly drunk by the inhabitants; the slime they leave after great floods is esteemed

M

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as beneficial to the lands they overflow as those of the Nile are to Egypt. The rich narrow vale along the banks is laid out in corn-fields and mulberry-plantations. An amphitheatre of bleak gloomy mountains shuts up the valley to the west, where the river makes its way through a narrow breach in the vast chain of rocks. Just before we entered Tortosa, we met the bishop of that see, clad in the plain simple manner of the inferior clergy of the province. His lank black hair was cut close to his ears, and covered by a great hat, squeezed up on each side into the form of a boat. The order of bishops in this kingdom leads a very exemplary life, much retired from the world, expending their great revenues in feeding the poor, building and endowing churches, convents, and hospitals, and allowing very scantily for their own expences. Their charity, however laudable as to the intention, is certainly most prejudicial to the public welfare, as it encourages beggary and idleness; for who will work in a country where he is sure of a good dinner every day at the gates of a monastery or palace, besides the chance of occasional alms; and where the softness of the climate renders cloaths and lodging objects of luxury rather than of prime necessity. Perhaps it would be better for Spain, were its prelates as extravagant as those of France, as their wealth would then be divided among the industrious and honest, and not lavished to support the existence of the idle, and often of the profligate. In spite of
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so good an example, the inferior clergy, and above all the monks, (one or two orders excepted) are notorious for the looseness of their morals. The bishopric of Tortosa is worth about thirty thousand dollars a year.

A little further on we came to a liquorice-work, carried on by an Englishman. The liquorice plant grows in great plenty on all the low grounds near the river. He employs above an hundred hands in gathering it, and about fifteen at constant work in the mills. He pays a certain sum to the proprietors of those lands; yet such is their envy, that this season they would not suffer him to pluck a single stick, though the loss falls upon themselves, and the very extraction of the root brings the ground almost to a state of cultivation. This conspiracy obliged him to send up into Arragon for liquorice, at a great additional expence. Much of it also is found about Villanova, and other places along the coast. Four hundred tons of root make fifty of cake, which in England sells at about three pounds fifteen shillings per hundred weight: this year he expects to export about that quantity.

Tortosa is an ugly town on the declivity of a hill, north of the Ebro, over which there is a bridge of boats. Its commerce in silk and corn is but at a low ebb. We purchased of some nuns the most delicate silk gloves I ever beheld, made of what they call the flower of silk.

We next traversed the rich vale of Garena, where the

olive-trees grow to a great size, their luxuriant branches not being so closely pollarded as in France. Here the peasants wear the Valencian dress, which differs totally from that of Catalonia; a monstrous flouched hat, cropt hair without a net, a short brown jacket, white waistcoat and trowsers, stockings gartered below the knee, and packthread sandals.

At the passage of the Cenia, a pretty brook in winter, but dry in summer, we entered the kingdom of Valencia. After crossing a large tract of heath, we came to the sea-shore, which is beautifully planted to the water-edge with olive, mulberry, fig, and *algarrobo* trees. We found a rich red soil, and vineyards neatly trimmed in rows, without stakes, in the district of Benicarlo, a small place entirely supported by the wine trade. Eight thousand pipes of a very strong, sweet, red wine, bought in the country at the rate of five guineas per pipe, are annually shipped in this road for Holland, Germany, and Bourdeaux, where they are mixed with the second-rate claret, to give it colour and body. The wine for Bourdeaux is conveyed along the coast to Cette, on board Spanish barks, which are exempt from all duties on exportation. By reason of their apprehensions of Moorish corsairs, and the chance of bad weather, they come to an anchor every night, and commonly make it a voyage of a month at least. At Cette these wines are put upon the great canal of Languedoc, and smuggled into Bourdeaux

deaux as high-country wines; for foreign ones are not allowed to be entered at that port. A society of mariners float all the casks from Benicarlo to the ships, and, from the time of their taking charge of them, become answerable for all losses by weather or mismanagement. A good deal of wine goes likewise from Vinaros, a neighbouring town to the north; but the quality of that wine is much inferior to those of Benicarlo and Peníscola, a town and fort situated south of Benicarlo, on a rock in the sea, where the famous antipope, Peter de Luna, took refuge.

In this plain they suffer much for want of water; the vintage is frequently diminished by the excessive heats, which dry up all the springs. It was once in agitation to bring a canal from the Ebro to water this country, but the project ended in smoke, like several others proposed for the amelioration of many parts of Spain. Wherever they can procure water from wells, by means of a wheel turned by a mule, they have fine vegetables all the year. They cut lucerne every week in spring, and every fortnight in winter, and mix it with the sweet bean of the locust, for the provender of their mules. Provisions are very scarce here, no kind of meat being killed except kid. In spring, goats milk is plentiful; but the peasants in the adjacent mountains live most part of the year upon the roasted acorns of the ever-green oak, a food which we found surprisingly savoury and palatable,

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latable, but not very nourishing. The gentlemen, proprietors of vineyards, reside up in the mountain villages, in a poor style, always distressed for money, notwithstanding the sure and ready sale of their wines. The sea hereabouts is full of sharks.

From Benicarlo we had much stony road, alternately skirting the shore, or climbing up wild rocky hills. Few vales surpass in beauty that of Margal, a noble plain, full of trees, villages, and towns. The sea forms a picturesque bay before it, and the mountains run behind in a vast semicircle. The locust and olive trees are old and branchy, the soil deep, and the grounds fertile, as being well drenched with water. We dined at Castillon de la Llana, the largest and best built town in our route. The women are very ugly, and render themselves still more uncomely, by frizzling their hair all round the forehead, and twisting it on the crown of the head round a nasty brass bodkin. Villa Real is another large town, near the Mijares, a river of a green colour, in a large plain.

The moment we entered this petty kingdom of Valencia, we began to feel a sensible change in the climate: the days are troublesomely hot, the nights soft and mild, like our fine summer evenings. Early and late in the day I walk an hour or two, to enjoy the sweetness of the morning and evening breeze, and contemplate at leisure the enchanting prospects along the calm Mediterranean. The numberless creeks and bays, the bold promontories,
with

with each its slender tower, of various shapes and dimensions, the green woody vales, with rocks impending over them, are scenes that can seldom be met with, and never outdone in any country, and such as no description of mine can do justice to. But, as all human pleasure is allayed with some mixture of pain and distress, these charming coasts are not without their calamities; till lately, they were cruelly infested by the Barbary rovers, who frequently cut barks out of their roads, and carried off whole families from the small villages. At present Barcelò keeps so sharp a look-out, that their appearance is less frequent in these seas. The scarcity of water is another misfortune, and severely felt almost every summer. Of the innumerable beds of rivers and torrents that we have crossed between Barcelona and Nules, six only have any water in them, viz. the Llobregat, Gaya, Francolis, Ebro, Cenia, and Mijares: two of these are dry during the hot weather. Hereabouts the little canals from the hills supply the lands with a greater plenty of water.

All these nights past we have heard the people fingering doleful ditties under our windows, to the sound of a guitar, which they strike with their nails, without any notion of air, but merely as a kind of an accompaniment, sometimes high, sometimes low, but very coarse and monotonous. I can compare their music to nothing so well as to the beating of a frying-pan, to call down a swarm of bees.

LETTER

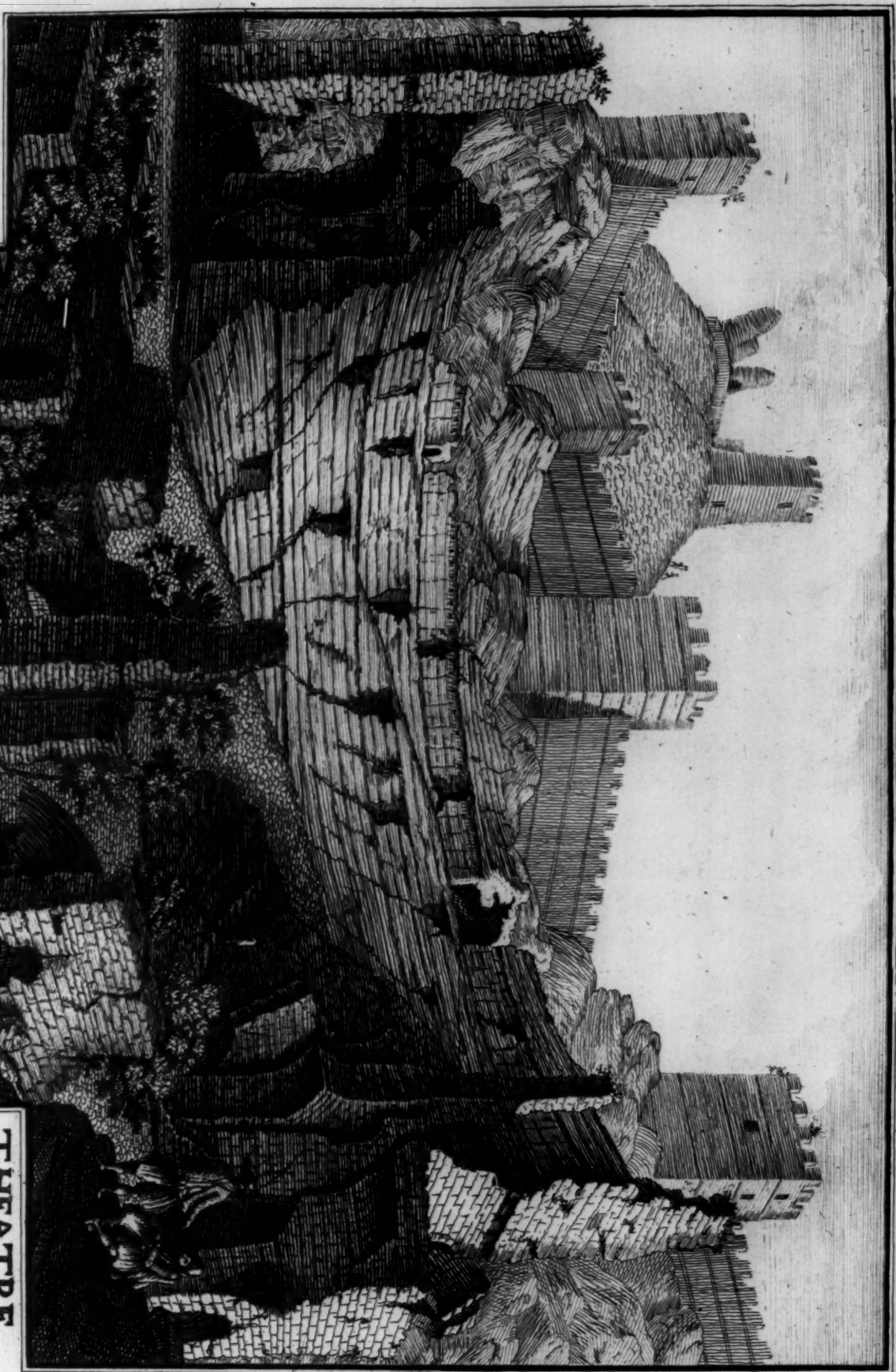
L E T T E R XII.

Valencia, November 30, 1775.

THIS morning, like many of the foregoing ones, was delicious; the sun rose gloriously out of the sea, and the air all around was perfumed with the effluvia of the aloe, as its rays sucked up the dew from the leaves.

From an eminence we had a noble view of the valley of Almenara, a kind of land bay, surrounded by lofty mountains, and adorned with six pretty towns, rising out of the bosom of a forest of dark and light greens, varied in a multitude of tints. The long range of turrets upon the hill of Murviedro (once the too faithful Saguntum) juts out towards the sea, from the chain of mountains that runs parallel with the coast, and divides the vale of Almenara from that of Valencia.

We halted at Murviedro, to view the ruins of so celebrated a city, and to take drawings of its most remarkable remains. The present town is very considerable, and seems to stand upon the same ground as the ancient Roman city, but in all probability the Saguntum which was destroyed by Hannibal was built upon the summit of the hill. That the Romans also had a fortress on the
top,



TEATRO DE

MORVEDRO

N.º 1775.

Plata VII

THEATRE
OF
SAGUNTUM



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top, is clear, from the large stones and regular masonry, upon which the Saracens afterwards erected their castle.

Half way up the rock are the ruins of the theatre, in sufficient preservation to give a tolerable idea of its size and distribution. It is an exact semicircle, about eighty-two yards diameter from outside to outside; the length of the orchestra, or inner diameter, twenty-four: the seats for the audience, the staircases, and passages of communication, the vomitoria, and arched porticoes, are still easy to trace. The back part rests against the hill, and some of the galleries are cut out of the rock. Two walls going off at an angle serve to turn off the rain-water that washes down from the cliff behind. As the spectators faced the north and east, and were sheltered from the west and south, nothing could be more agreeable in this climate than such a place of entertainment; open to every pleasant and salubrious breeze, and defended from all winds that might bring with them heat or noxious vapours. It is computed that nine thousand persons might assist without inconvenience at the exhibitions in this theatre. I passed some time in taking an oblique drawing of the present appearance of the ruins; but, in spite of all my attention, I found it a very difficult task, the heaps of rubbish, broken porticoes, and vaults, and remnants of walls, creating such a perplexity, that my eye could scarcely distinguish the proper form and situation of each object. The silence that reigns in this

august ruin, which anciently resounded with the applauses of proconsuls, and Roman citizens, is now broken only by the *seguidillas* of a few rope-makers, who have patched up a straw shed against the stage, and spin out their work across the *proscenium*, regardless of the surrounding scenery ⁶.

From the theatre we climbed up to the summit of the mountain, which is about half a mile in length, and not a tenth part as wide; quite a narrow ridge, covered with ruins and Moorish bulwarks. A few uninteresting inscriptions, two mutilated statues, the vestiges of the floor of a temple, and some Roman arches thrown over a large cistern, are all the antiquities we found. One of the in-

⁶ In the Latin Letters of Em. Marti, dean of Alicant, written about the year 1720, is a long and learned dissertation on this theatre. He gives the following measures:—Perimeter of the semi-circle, 564 palmos; diameter, 330; diameter of the orchestra, 94; height from the orchestra to the top of the highest wall remaining, $144\frac{1}{2}$; breadth of the upper portico, $15\frac{1}{2}$; height, $12\frac{3}{4}$; distance of the pulpitum from the orchestra, 12; height of the pulpitum, $6\frac{1}{4}$; distance from the orchestra to the scena, 28; breadth of the proscenium, 12; breadth of the pulpitum, $16\frac{1}{2}$. The palmo he uses contains about nine English inches. He adds, that great part of this theatre is still entire; and that we should see it in a much more perfect state, if the barbarous hands of the Morviedrese had spared it as much as time has done; for they have purposely destroyed this ancient monument, by wrenching off all the casing-stones for the purposes of building convents. There is no doubt but they intended to demolish the whole, if the obstinate hardness of the cement had not wearied them out. Marti extorted from the magistrates a public decree, infictive of severe penalties on all such as should injure it in any manner whatsoever.

scriptions

scriptions is placed topfy-turvy over a gate. The fortifications divide the hill into several courts, with double and triple walls, erected upon huge masses of rock, laid in regular courses, by the Romans. The characteristics of the Moorish military architecture:—A wall built by means of square forms of wood, into which a mortar, composed of pebbles mixed with a strong cement, is run, and left a certain time to harden; then the boards are taken away, but the marks remain, and give the wall an appearance of regular masonry. Battlements perpendicularly placed on the wall, not projecting over, nor with borders round, as in the Norman and Gothic castles, where the hollows behind the battlements served to throw stones and combustibles through, as the enemy approached to scale them. A gateway turned in an arch, neither pointed like what we call Gothic, nor semicircular like the Grecian; but one, the parts of which resting upon the imposts, come much farther in towards each other, and form the figure of a horseshoe. Sometimes, but very seldom, the Moors employed stones of a large size, and more regular cut; and some few of their arches may be found that are sharp like the Gothic; but I suspect them to be of the latter times of the Moorish empire in Spain.

What was wanting in interesting antiquities in the castle, was amply made up to us in prospect, which was so surprisingly fine, that I dare hardly attempt to specify its beauties, lest you should think me too easily enrap-

tured, or too unequal to the task of imparting to others the sensations it raised in me. This last accusation I plead guilty to, for no pen can convey an adequate idea of this view, and few painters ever possessed that richness of touch, and clearness of manner, such a subject would require. The vale of Almenara, on the north, is so delightful, that from any other station it would have engrossed all our attention; but we soon neglected its beauties, and, gliding rapidly over the immense volume of sea stretched out before us to the eastward, where the sunbeams played in full force, we fixed our eyes on the almost boundless plain of Valencia, that lay to the south. It is four leagues in breadth from the sea to the hills, in the widest part, and in length five times that extent, losing itself in a ridge of distant mountains. The yellow green of the mulberry plantations, and the paler hue of the olive-trees, regularly planted in fields of bright green corn; that regularity now and then broken by large plots of dark-coloured algarrobos; villages and convents, thick scattered over this great expanse, with numberless gay slender steeples; the city of Valencia, about twelve miles off, with all its spires: these objects, united, form the most inimitable landscape it is possible to conceive. The day was so clear, the air so pure, as to add infinitely to the charms of the prospect. Hannibal is a great favourite of mine, but I cannot forgive him for having dealt so hardly by so sweet a place: had he
come

come upon this hill in such a day as this, the softness of the air, and beauty of the view, would have melted the obduracy of his heart, and opened it to pity and forgiveness.

From hence to Valencia is one perfect garden, so thick of trees, that there is no seeing at any distance on either side. Villages and monasteries every hundred yards, and such crouds of people on the road, as I scarce ever saw but in the neighbourhood of London. All the grounds are divided into small compartments by water-channels, the work of the Moors, who understood the art of watering land in the utmost perfection. The ruinous state these drains are now in, proves the indolence and inferiority of the present proprietors; what little skill they still shew in agriculture is nothing but the traditional remains of the instructions left by their masters in husbandry, the Arabians. Our pleasurable ideas were a little ruffled by the sight of some hundreds of women in the villages, sitting in the sun lousing each other, or their husbands and children. When a young woman condescends to seek for lice in a man's head, it is supposed that the last favours have been granted by the fair one, or at least that he may have them for asking.

Valencia is situated in so dead and woody a flat, that we were in the suburbs before we thought ourselves near it, and, having made half the round of the walls, came

came to an inn on the Alicant road, as it was late, and we did not choose to be detained at the gates by the customhouse officers.

L E T T E R XIII.

Valencia, December 3, 1775.

OUR first morning here passed very strangely, in a visit to the old intendant of the province, to whom we brought a letter of recommendation from his *confrere* of Catalonia. The old usurer, whose figure resembles that of the bandy-legged apothecary in Hogarth's *Marriage à la mode*, received us very ungraciously, took our letter and flung it on the table, without saying a word to us, or even offering us a seat. Having waited some time, we began to look at each other and laugh. Upon this the intendant looked up, and asked me if we were not Catalans? No, replied I, we are English gentlemen upon our travels. This answer produced a wonderful effect. Oh, oh, you come from a better country; Can I be of any service to you? Bring these gentlemen chairs. Do you choose to take any refreshment?

freshment? said he, pulling off his hat with great reverence, and making us a most profound bow. We asked him for the only thing we stood in need of, a protection against the people of the customhouses, who, though they do not meddle with your baggage, pester you at every gate for something to drink, or buy tobacco with. The intendant's character is very little respected, nor indeed does it deserve the love or esteem of the Valencians, if the traits they relate be true. Many are the stories they tell of his avarice and hardness of heart; but one will suffice to set him in his proper light. Not long ago he was confined to his bed by a severe fit of illness, and positive orders were given, that he should not be disturbed by applications, petitions, or any thing appertaining to his employment. It so happened, that a tradesman who had been taken up for smuggling, and kept in prison for some weeks, was discovered to be perfectly innocent of the crime laid to his charge. One of the magistrates thought, that for so just a cause as that of restoring an honest man to his liberty, and to his distressed and indigent family, whose very existence depended upon his industry, he might venture to break through the injunction of the intendant, and accordingly procured admittance, and presented the proper paper requisite to be signed, before the jailor could deliver up his prisoner. As soon as the old rogue understood the purport of the visit, he flew into a most violent rage, and obstinately refused

refused to sign. Another officer, seeing the door open, took that opportunity of handing up an order for the commitment of a fellow that had been detected in illicit practices. The intendant no sooner read it, than he called for a pen, and set his hand to it with great pleasure, at the same time persisting in his refusal to comply with the first request.

We shall leave Valencia to-morrow, being heartily tired of our quarters. The climate is mild and pleasant, but there is something faintish and enervating in the air. Every thing we eat is insipid, and void of substance; the greens, wine, and meat, seem the artificial forced productions of continual waterings and hot-beds. It puts me in mind of the *Isle frivole* of the Abbé Coyer, where things were so feeble and unsubstantial, that they were little better than the shadows of what they are in other countries. Here a man may labour for an hour at a piece of mutton, and, when he has tired his jaws, find he has been only chewing the *idea* of a dinner. The meat, as soon as cut into, yields abundance of gravy, and may be said to bleed a second time to death, for nothing remains but a mere withered *caput mortuum*, as our servants know by woful experience. Vegetables, with the finest outward shew imaginable, taste of nothing but water. This watery quality seems also to infect the bodies and minds of the Valencians: they are largely built, and personable men, but flabby and inanimate. We have seen no wo-

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men out at work in the fields; but this may proceed from their constant employment within doors, as much as from any remnants of the Moorish jealousy, though the Valencians still retain much of the features and manners of their old Saracen masters. To this day the farmers won't allow their wives to sit at table, but make them stand at their elbow and wait upon them. The Castillians and Catalans hold the Valencians in sovereign contempt, and stigmatize them with many opprobrious appellations, dictated, as we must in charity suppose, by the rancour of national antipathy. The inhabitants of this province are said to have more of the filth, and sullen unpolished manners of the old Spaniards, and to have adopted less of foreign improvements in civilization, than most other parts of Spain. They strut about all day in *redicillas*, or nets, monstrous hats, and dark-brown cloaks, which give the crowd in the streets the appearance of a funeral procession. Scarce any society is kept up amongst them, tho' the salubrity of the climate, and reasons of œconomy, induce several very considerable families to make this city the place of their abode. In some strange way or other they spend very large incomes, without doing themselves the least credit. Their chief expence lies in servants, mules, and equipages; low, obscure amours often consume the best part of their fortunes; and they live in so pitiful a manner, that most

part of them send out to the wine-vault for a pint of wine to their meals.

This city is large, and almost circular; its lofty walls have towers remaining in one quarter, the rest have been demolished: a fine broad road goes quite round: the two suburbs are considerable. Several large, clumsy bridges cross the bed where the river should run; but either from drought, or from the many bleedings it undergoes above, for the purpose of watering the fields, there is scarce water enough in the *Guadaviar* to wash a handkerchief; but in rainy seasons the floods are very tremendous. The captain-general resides in the suburbs, in an uncouth Gothic palace, at the entrance of the *Alameda*, a long double avenue of poplars, cypresses, and palms, where, on great festivals, the nobility take the air in their coaches. About a mile below is the *Grao*, or port of Valencia, which, properly speaking, is only an open road, the mole having been long ago swept away by some violent storm. The dusty highway from the city hither is the fashionable drive; and, for the accommodation of such as have no carriages of their own, several single-horse chairs wait at all hours at the gates. This vehicle is very uneasy, and open to all weathers; but the horses are excellent, and run along like lightning. The driver sits sideways at your feet, and all the way keeps chattering to the horse,
and

and patting him on the buttock. Having occasion one day for a coach to carry us about, the stable-boy of our inn offered his services, and in a quarter of an hour brought to the door a coach and four fine mules, with two postillions and a lacquey, all in flaming liveries; we found out they belonged to a countess, who, like the rest of the nobility, allows her coachman to let out her equipage when she has no occasion for it: it cost us about nine shillings, which no doubt was the perquisite of the servants.

The streets of Valencia are crooked and narrow; not being paved, they are full of dust in dry weather, and in wet knee-deep in mud. The reason alledged for this scandalous neglect, is, that by these means a greater quantity of manure is produced, which, in a plain so full of gardens, is of inestimable value. Various and overpowering are the stinks that rise up in every corner; in which respect, as well as in many others, this country resembles Lombardy.

The houses are filthy, ill built, and ruinous; most of the churches tawdry, and loaded with barbarous ornaments both without and within; the most agreeable architecture I met with, is in the church of the *Escuelas pias*, and of *nuestra Señora de los Desamparados*, both rotundas. In the multitude of sacred edifices, some may be found that excel in particular parts; as, one may please the eye by the just proportions of its dimensions, another

strike by the richness of its marbles and paintings ; but in all, the judicious observer will be disgusted with loads of garlands, pyramids, broken pediments, and monstrous cornices ; a taste too gothic and trifling for any thing but the front of a mountebank's booth, or a puppet-show in a fair. Some churches have domes, but the greater part tall slender turrets, painted and bedecked with all sorts of pilasters and whimsical devices : every thing is gilt and bedaubed with incredible profusion ; the Spaniards understand the gilder's business perfectly, and the purity of their gold, with the dryness of the climate, preserves their work for years in its primitive lustre. The convent of the Franciscan friars has something very grand and pleasing in its double court, which is divided by a light wing, upon an open portico, with fountains playing in each division.

The cathedral is a large gothic pile ; its archbishopric one of the best in Spain, said to bring in about forty thousand pounds sterling a year, paid in cash into the hands of two receivers. The revenues of Toledo are much greater, but also more troublesome to collect, and more precarious, as being paid in kind, and requiring a great number of bailiffs and servants. The present archbishop of Valencia, as well as the last one, is the son of a peasant ; the ruling passion of both has been convent building : the late prelate built and endowed a magnificent habitation for the Franciscans, the champions of the

TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN. 101

the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary; the present archbishop, whose scholastic tenets are diametrically opposed to those of his predecessor, has done as much for the fathers of the *Escuelas pias*.

Priests, nuns, and friars, of every dress and denomination, swarm in this city, where some convents have more than an hundred monks, all richly provided for.

Among the profane buildings, many of which are prettily set off with painted architecture, after the Italian manner, the palaces of *Dofaguas* and *Jura real* deserve the most notice; the former for its statues and fresco paintings, the latter for the elegant simplicity of its front.

The *Lonja*, or exchange, is a very noble gothic hall, built about the latter end of the fifteenth century, with all the beauty and richness that style is susceptible of.

The custom-house, where the intendant and other officers of the revenue are lodged, is a new large edifice in a great square, a very clumsy mass of brick and stone.

This kingdom and city were conquered by the Moors under Abdallah Ciz, and lost by them in 1094, when the famous Cid Ruy dias de Vivar, taking advantage of the confusion and civil war that raged in Valencia, after the murder of Sultan Hiaya, made himself master of the city by storm, at the head of a chosen band of valiant knights. This was the last exploit of that hero,
so

so long the terror of the mussulmen. A few years after his death, the king of Castille, finding it too far distant from his other dominions to be conveniently succoured in case of a sudden attack, thought proper to withdraw his troops, and suffer the Moors to repossess themselves of it. It was again taken from them by James the First, king of Arragon, in the year 1238, and for ever united to that crown, the fate of which it has ever since followed through all its various revolutions. In the beginning of the reign of Charles the Fifth, this province was distracted by civil commotions and struggles between the nobility and commons.

Since the last conquest, Valencia has been much enlarged; for the gate through which the Cid made his triumphal entry, is now very near the center of the town.

The number of inhabitants is computed at one hundred thousand; but, to speak more exactly, according to the last authentic enumeration, made in 1768, which allows four persons to each *vecino*, at twenty thousand vecinos, or fathers of families; which makes the number to be eighty thousand inhabitants. The population of the whole kingdom of Valencia amounts to one hundred and seventy-nine thousand two hundred and twenty-one vecinos, or seven hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and eighty-four souls, resident in five hundred and seventy towns and villages. The manufactures of
 silk

filk are the cause of a population that may be reckoned considerable, if compared to that of other provinces of Spain. The produce of this article came this year to one million pounds, but one year with another the average quantity is about nine hundred thousand pounds, worth a doubloon a pound in the country. The crop of filk this last season was very abundant. Government has prohibited the exportation of Valencian raw filk, in order to lay in a stock to keep the artificers constantly employed in bad years; for it has happened in some, that half the workmen have been laid idle for want of materials. As they are not so strict about Murcian filk, which is of an inferior quality, I am told that some from Valencia is sent out of Spain under that denomination. The great nurseries of mulberry-plants, in this plain, are produced from seed, obtained by rubbing a rope of *esparto* over heaps of ripe mulberries, and then burying the rope two inches under ground. As the young plants come up, they are drawn and transplanted. The trees, which are all of the white kind, are afterwards set out in rows in the fields, and pruned every second year. In Murcia, only every third year, and in Granada never. The Granadine filk is esteemed the best of all; and the trees are all of the black sort of mulberry.

The fruit exported from Valencia to the north of Europe may be estimated, *communibus annis*, at two millions.

lions of pesos, about three hundred and thirty-four thousand pounds.

The annual crop of hemp may be worth three hundred thousand pesos, at three pesos per *arroba*.

One hundred and forty thousand loads of rice, at ten pesos a load, make one million four hundred thousand pesos.

The vintage of 1767 produced four million three hundred and nine thousand measures of wine, which, at three reals a measure, come to about eight hundred and sixty-one thousand one hundred and thirty-three pesos.

There is also much cotton made in this province, from the cotton-plant, which rises to the height of three feet at most, and very much resembles the raspberry-bush. They make in good years four hundred and fifty thousand *arrobas*, worth one million three hundred and fifty thousand pesos, and in middling years two hundred and eighty-five thousand six hundred *arrobas*.

Notwithstanding all this abundance, nothing can be more wretched than the Valencian peasantry, who can with difficulty procure food to keep their families from starving.

We were last night at the play, which gave us no very respectable opinion of the taste and politeness of a Valencian audience. The house was low, dark, and dirty; the actors execrable; and the pit full of men in cloaks
and

and night-caps, driving such puffs of tobacco out of their *cigarros*, as filled the whole room with smoke, and at last forced us to make a precipitate retreat. We there met with our old acquaintance the duke of C. P. who a few months ago came post from France, to embark for the expedition against Algiers. When he arrived at Valencia, he found the fleet was failed, and an order for him to remain in exile here. The derangement of his finances, and some amorous connections, have procured him this order from court. His fate is truly ludicrous, but he did not drop the least hint to us of this unkind return for his patriotic spirit, and eagerness to serve the king.

L E T T E R X I V .

Alicant, December 8, 1775.

WE set out early on Monday morning, without regretting in the least the rich gardens or brilliant sky of Valencia, which would be an admirable last retreat for our consumptive countrymen, were the approach by sea or land less difficult.

We travelled that day in a plain, as fertile as nature and frequent waterings can render it. At some miles

P

distance

distance from the city the soil is a red, sandy loam ; near the Albufera, a lake about four leagues long, it is very shallow, and communicates with the sea only as often as they open the sluices, to let in a supply of water in dry seasons, or to give vent to the overcharge of water brought down in winter by the land floods. On the edge of it are salt-pans. It supplies the city with fish and water-fowl. Once or twice in a season all the shooters in the country assemble upon it in boats, and make prodigious havock among the flocks of birds, that almost cover the surface of the pond. Sometimes they meet with flamingos here.

Before we arrived at Alzira, a large town in an island of the Xucar, a deep, muddy river, we crossed a large tract of land astonishingly fruitful. The peas and beans in the fields were very high, and in full blow. The husbandmen use in their tillage a shovel-plough, with which they turn the soil from the roots of the olive-trees, that they may benefit by the moisture of the season. We were stopped several times by long droves of mules, carrying corn to Valencia ; their conductors, most savage-looking fellows, all clad in leather ; their broad belts were fastened round their waist with seven buckles.

In the afternoon, at the entrance of a more mountainous country, we came to the rice-grounds, now in stubble. The process of that tillage is as follows :—In winter they plow out a piece of land, and sow it with beans
that

that come into blossom about March, when they plow them in for manure ; water is then let in upon the ground about four inches deep. It next undergoes a third ploughing, after which the rice is sown. In fifteen days it comes up about five inches out of the earth, and is pulled up, tyed in bundles about a foot diameter, and carried to another well-prepared field, covered with water to the depth of four inches. Here each planter sets the plants of his bundle in the mud, in rows at about a foot distance one from another. Every stem ought to produce from ten to twenty-four fold, and grow so close, that the ears may touch. When ripe, it is gathered in sheaves, and put into a water-mill, where the lower grinding-stone is covered with cork ; by which means the chaff is separated from the grain without bruising. The rice of Valencia is yellower than that of the Levant, but much wholesomer, and will keep longer without growing musty.

We entered the highlands, and came to lie at Xativa, which was a strong fortress, till destroyed by Philip the Fifth, who ordered it to be rebuilt by the name of San Felipe. That monster Rodrigo Borgia, pope by the name of Alexander the Sixth, was a native of this town. The farmers hereabouts have a very sturdy, good-looking breed of horses.

Our route from San Felipe lay up long winding vales, between ridges of high bleak mountains. On the right

hand stands the castle of Montesa, head of the military order of Montesa, instituted in 1317, by James the Second king of Arragon, after he had driven the Moors as far back as the territories of Granada. All the possessions of the knight-templars in the province were bestowed upon the new order, into which none but natives of Valencia were to be admitted. They wear a plain red cross. The commanderies belonging to the foundation are thirteen in number; and their yearly income, according to the king's books, where they are very low rated, amounts to four hundred and four thousand one hundred and twelve reales de vellon. In 1748, an earthquake overthrew the castle, and all the adjacent buildings; burying under the ruins the greatest part of the chaplains, servants, &c. belonging to the congregation. The remainder were removed to Valencia, where a new church is building for their use.

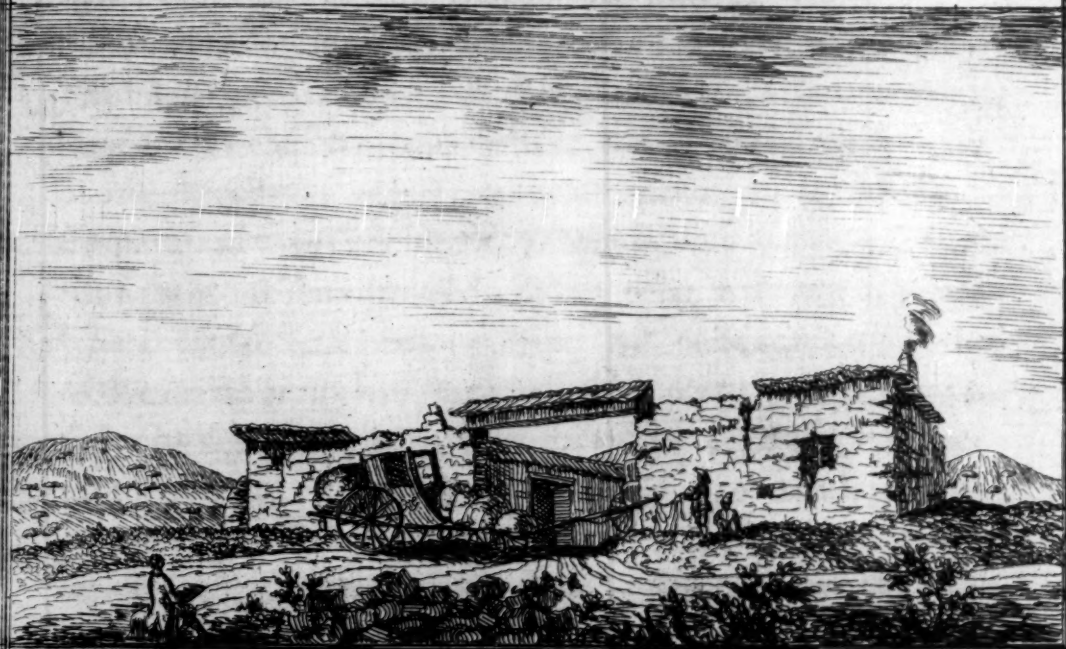
We did nothing the whole day but ascend through olive plantations, pine forests, and bare chalky hills, up the course of a little brook, till we came to its source, which breaks out in the middle of a town on the confines of Castille. Hitherto, the olives I have seen are all of the smaller sort.

Next morning the frost was very smart on the high, bare hills, where there is much corn-land, but no trees; the farm-houses are scattered about pretty much as they are in the uninclosed parts of England.

Just

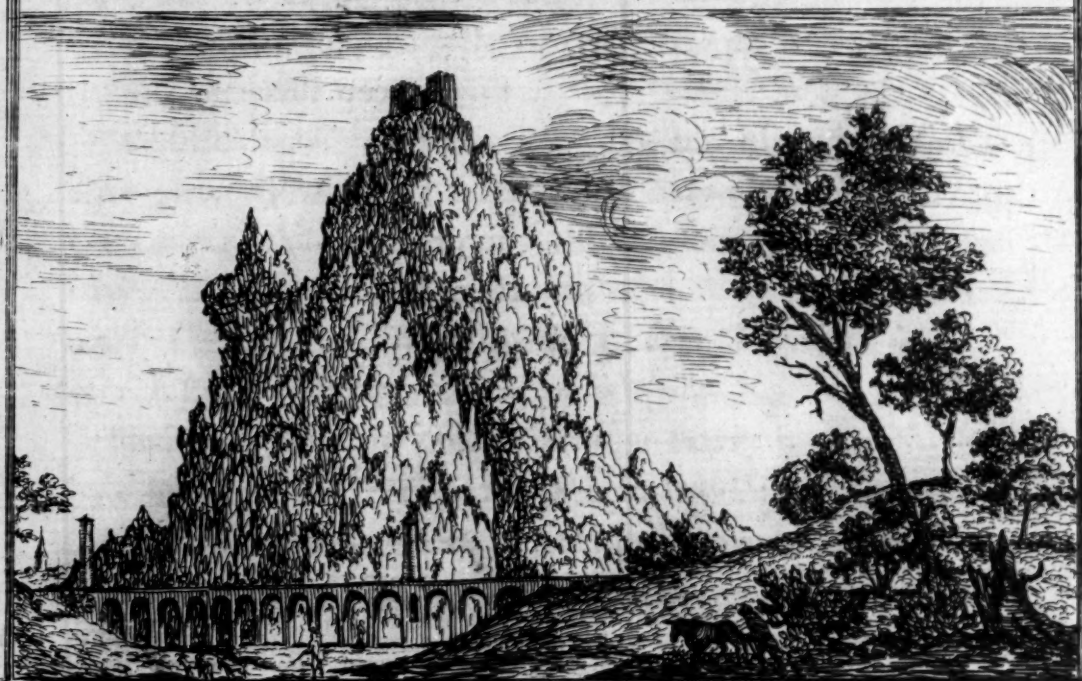


Venta del Platero. in Catalonia



Castle of Saxe in Valencia

H. del. de. sc. 1775



Just as we were going into Villena, a little, round, squat figure, in a brown montero cap, jacket, and breeches, with a yellow waistcoat, caught my eye. It is not possible to paint a better Sancho Pança; and we were actually in a corner of the country of that 'squire, which makes me conclude Cervantes drew the picture from real life, in some of his journies through La Mancha. All the inhabitants of the town wear the same dress, which is neat enough. The castle of Villena is large, well situated, and has been strong. I never saw a country so full of ruined towers, as these skirts of Valencia and Castille; not a village without its rocca perched upon some almost inaccessible cliff; none more singular than that of *Sax*. The hills here are broken, the landscape bleak; but about Elda the plain is improved to the best advantage. We passed by a string of ponds and caves, where the inhabitants of that town keep their provision of ice, for the summer's consumption. As there was a thin coat of ice on the surface of the water, they were very busy carrying it off with the greatest expedition, lest a sudden thaw should deprive them of it.

Before we came into the plain of Montfort, we had a vile piece of road, through a broken range of marly hills. We now found the style of salutation quite altered. Hitherto the peasants were wont to accost us as they passed, with a *Dios guarde usted*: "God keep your worship;" but here they begin, twenty yards before they come up to you, and

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and bawl out as loud as they can, *Ave Maria purissima*; to which you are expected to answer, either *Sin pecado concebida*, or *Deo gratias*.

Late in the evening, we passed a large encampment of carriers of salt-fish. Their carts formed an outer circle, and their oxen a smaller one, round a roaring fire, where some of the men were cooking, others working at their tackle, but the greater part stretched out fast asleep. The moon shone very bright, and all was soft and still; I quite envied the pleasant sensations of those fellows.

Our road this morning was bad, the country abominable, a white clay in powder, and not a stick of wood. In rainy years the crops of corn are extremely plentiful. Though it was a bitter cold day, the clouds of dust almost stifled us.

We got in here very early, and took up our lodgings at an inn, which hangs over the sea; the waves beat gently against the walls under our windows, and the whole road and harbour lie beautifully stretched out before us. Unfortunately, the warmth and stillness of the situation tempt the boat-men to make use of this part of the beach as a necessary, and we cannot venture to lean out, and feast our eyes with the fine prospect of the sea, without suffering exceedingly in another sense. The landlord endeavours to comfort us, by assuring us that to-morrow's sun will dry all up.

I begin to have my apprehensions, that my letters, instead

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stead of acquiring life and spirit from our progress in this kingdom, have, on the contrary, betrayed of late a great propensity towards stupidity. Heaven forbid, the enfeebling air of Valencia should have settled upon my pen! I must shake it off, and strive to afford you better entertainment.

L E T T E R XV.

Alicant, December 11, 1775.

WE have been received with the usual politeness by the British subjects residing here, whose hospitality knows no bounds, when any of their wandering countrymen appear to lay claim to it. The factory, which consists of five houses, lives in a style of elegance we did not expect to meet with any where out of a capital; every circumstance attending our reception here, is beyond measure agreeable. After so warm an acknowledgment of our obligations to the inhabitants, you will naturally suppose I shall launch out in praise of the town, and varnish over every defect; but there you will find yourself mistaken. I confess it has neither buildings nor streets to recommend it to notice; though the houses in
general

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general are solidly built, with flat roofs, covered with cement ; their walls are plaistered, and every thing as white as the soil of the adjacent country ; which fatigues the eye most cruelly in sun-shiny weather, that is, almost every day in the year. Then the dust flies about in whirlwinds ; if it rains, there is no possibility of making one's way through the streets without boots, the *Calle-mayor* being the only paved street in the whole town. In the hot months, this place is a very furnace, its form being the best calculated in the world for intercepting the rays of the sun, and collecting them as in one focus ; the mountain behind shuts out the winds, that, blowing from the cool quarters, might refresh the atmosphere ; but I believe the sea-breeze must occasionally contribute to the cooling of the air. In such mild winter weather as we have felt here, it is impossible not to be delighted with the climate, and the beauties of situation that the port of Alicant affords. It stands on the middle of a narrow neck of land, that runs out into the sea a considerable way, and almost comes round in a semi-circular form ; in the center of which ships ride with as much safety as in a harbour ; a rocky mountain rises directly behind the town ; on its summit is the castle, now fortified after the modern method, and extended far beyond the limits of the old fortrefs, great part of which was blown up, with a fragment of the rock, in the war with the allies, in the reign of our queen Anne. The English
garrison

garrison refused to capitulate, though the French gave them notice of the mine being ready to be sprung. A well that communicated with the mine, gave it some vent, and prevented the rest of the mountain from being shivered to pieces by the explosion; however, most of the officers were blown up, and the remainder of the troops so stunned by the shock, as to be many hours deprived of all power of motion.

Behind the castle-hill, is a plain some leagues in circumference, called *Las buertas*; the gardens of Alicant lying along the sea-shore, surrounded on three sides by very lofty mountains. It is a very beautiful vale, thickly studded with villages, villas, farms, and plantations of all kinds of fruit-trees; but in the hot part of the year the air is very unwholesome, and few or none escape agues or fevers. Here the fine Alicant and Tent wines are made. Only two, of the great number of proprietors of vineyards, make a practice of keeping their wine to a proper age. As the value is enhanced many-fold by keeping, the high price they get for their wines amply repays them for the time they are out of their money. Of the common sorts, about five thousand tun may be the amount, most of which is destined for the Bourdeaux merchants.

Water is the great agent, the *primum mobile* of all productions in this country; every thing languishes, and soon is parched up, without an ample supply of it; abundance

dance of rain secures both a plentiful harvest and a copious vintage. Wherever a spring breaks out, the king's people seize upon it, and allot to each landholder a proper hour for letting the water upon his grounds. It is of so much consequence, that the value of a guinea has been paid for an hour extraordinary.

The English factory imports all sorts of bale goods, corn, and Newfoundland cod. The articles of exportation are wine and barilla. This last grows in great quantities along the coast, especially near Carthagena: as I shall, in all probability, get better intelligence there about it, in its vegetable state, I shall defer entering into any detail at present on that head. The merchants here, as they employ agents to transact the business for them, are very little informed of the qualities or peculiarities of the several sorts of barilla they ship off. It is brought hither in boats, duty free; afterwards it is packed with rushmats, in lumps of about six hundred weight, which ought to be worth about three or four dollars per hund.; but, as this year has been favourable to the crops, it does not fetch above two and a half.

We have been all the morning in great uneasiness about Sir T. G.'s valet de chambre, who, till within this hour, was not to be found in any of the places he usually frequents. His appearance has quieted our apprehensions; and it seems he has been, from sun-rise till dinner-time, locked up in the sacristy of the great church, curling and frizzling

zling the flaxen perriwig of the statue of the Virgin, who is to-morrow to be carried in solemn procession through the city.

There is a sorry kind of an Italian opera here ; bad as it is, there is a something in Italian music, however ill executed, incomparably soft and grateful to ears like ours, so long fatigued with French squalling, and the drone of Spanish *seguidillas*. We were upon the point of being deprived of this amusement, by the wisdom of the clergy, who attributed the want of rain to the influence of that ungodly entertainment ; luckily for the poor strollers, and for us, there fell a smart shower just as the orders were ready to be issued out against any further performance, and as it continued to rain all next day, the church thought no more of the opera.

From Alicant is seen, at nine miles distance south, the island of S. Polo, where the Conde de Aranda settled a colony of Genoese and others, who formerly inhabited an island on the African coast. The regency of Tunis destroyed their settlement, and carried them all into slavery ; from which they were redeemed by Spain, and, with the allowance of a pistreen a day, sent to form a new town on this barren island. As it yields no productions of any kind, they are obliged to be supplied from the main land with every necessary of life ; so that should the administrators neglect to lay in a sufficient stock for their sustenance, in case of tempestuous weather they must inevi-

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tably perish with hunger and thirst. Even as matters now stand, from their scanty allowance and perpetual confinement, I believe they think themselves no great gainers by being rescued from their slavery.

L E T T E R XVI.

Carthagená, December 15, 1775.

TO continue the journal of our peregrinations:—We left Alicant on the 12th, and brought away with us some bottles of choice Tent for you. We hope, on our return, to present you with a compleat collection of the best wines in Spain; travelling with such a waggon-load of things, a few bottles more or less are not felt; we are obliged to carry, not only our beds, but bread, wine, meat, oil, and salt, from one great town to another; for we seldom meet with any thing in the inns but the bare walls, and perhaps a few eggs, which they sell at an unconscionable price. If we chance to find a few unbroken chairs, we esteem ourselves uncommonly fortunate; yet it is astonishing how dear travelling is in this country. They ask as much for giving you house-room, and for the *xuyda de casa*, or the noise you make, as would purchase a good

a good supper and lodgings in the best inns, in most other parts of Europe. As our health is excellent, and consequently our spirits good, we are easily reconciled to these kinds of hardships. Indeed we no longer look upon them in that light; the mildness of the climate obviates all inconveniences that might accrue from a total want of glass, or even paper, in the windows; or of a door or shutter that can be fastened close enough to keep wind or rain out.

As soon as we arrive at one of these barns, called Ventas, our first care is to set up our beds. The kitchen is generally at one end; the mules stand in the back part, and our apartment is a partition run up against the wall to the street, with a hole or two for light, defended by three or four very useless iron bars, for a pigmy could not squeeze through the window.

Next, our cook takes his stand at the hearth, to warm our broth, which we carry, ready made, in a kettle behind our chaise; and if he can procure fuel and elbow-room, tosses up a hash, or some such campaign dish. Sometimes we are lucky enough to have an opportunity of setting our spit, or broiling a chop upon our gridiron; but these are luxuries we are not to expect above once or twice in the course of a week.

While our repast is preparing, we read, draw, or write, by the light of a long brass lamp. Our supper dispatched, and a bottle of wine placed between us, we enjoy

joy an hour's merry chat, to give the servants time to sup, and then we retire to bed, where we lie very snug till the dawn of day calls us up, to our usual task of four or five leagues before dinner, and about three in the afternoon. The continual tinkling of the bells of the mules was very irksome to us at first, but we are now so well accustomed to these chimes, that I believe we shall not be able to go to sleep without them, when we return to France.

We stopped at Elche, a large town belonging to the duke of Arcos, built on the skirts of a wood, or rather forest, of palm-trees, where the dates hanging on all sides in clusters of an orange colour, and the men swinging on bass ropes to gather them, formed a very curious and agreeable scene. The palms are old and lofty; their number is said to exceed two hundred thousand. Many of the trees have their branches bound up to a point, and covered with mats to prevent the sun and wind from getting to them. In process of time the branches become quite white, and are then cut off, and sent by ship-loads from Alicant to Genoa, and other parts of Italy, for the grand processions of Palm-Sunday; an uncommon species of traffic.

The country round this town is very chearful, and so are the environs of Orihuela. They are indebted for their fertility to the abundance and proper distribution of water. In dry years, every field that has not some
spring

spring or aqueduct, to furnish it with repeated rigations, is sure to fail in its crop. There is a Spanish proverb in favour of the last-mentioned city; *Si llove, aytrigo en Orihuela, y si no llove aytrigo in Orihuela*: "If it rains, there is plenty of wheat in Orihuela, and if it does not rain, there is still plenty of wheat in Orihuela." Indeed we found its bread excellent, and it has the reputation of producing the best corn in Spain. It is a bishop's see, pretty large, and well enough built, at the foot of a ridge of bare rocks, near the head of a very fruitful *vega* or vale. Near it are avenues of Peric-pepper-tree, or *Schinus molle*, loaded with bunches of a handsome rose-coloured fruit; the people of the country call it *Tira-vientos*, probably from some wind-expelling quality. From hence we proceeded along the skirts of the rocks, up into the celebrated vale of Murcia, far superior, in the variety and richness of its culture, to any plain we had hitherto travelled through. Although we were then in the heart of winter, its general appearance was a bright green, the colour of the young corn, flax, lucerne, pulse, and orange-groves. As this vale is not too extensive, but most agreeably bounded on both sides by mountains, the insipid sameness that cloy the eye in most flat countries, however well cultivated, is not perceptible here.

The city of Murcia is neither large nor handsome. The *Segura*, a muddy river, which divides it into two unequal parts, though it contributes nothing to the embellishment

bellishment of the town, claims the merit of creating, by means of its waters, the surprizing fertility of the plain. Hundreds of small drains convey them to the inclosures ; and, in spite of the effects of the scorching rays of the sun, preserve the vegetable system fresh and succulent.

The walks about the place are trifling ; the streets so full of black stagnated water, as to be almost unpassable. The only thing we found worth seeing was the cathedral, a large massive pile.

Round one part of it is a chain, cut in stone, with a great deal of truth and ease. The steeple, though unfinished, is lofty, and intended, I presume, to exhibit specimens of every one of the five orders of architecture. You may ride up to the top by a passage that goes gradually winding round the tower. From it we had a full view of the town and country ; but at this season of the year, the landscape was not decked out in all its beauty, and the bare brown mountains appear too near to please. The names and banners of the Jews, that have been burnt in this town by the inquisition, are stuck up in the church like so many trophies won in the day of victory from some mighty foe.

From Murcia we struck directly across the vale, into the chain of mountains on the south side of the town, and the rugged bed of a torrent was all the road we found. You cannot conceive a more shocking one. The
naked

naked clayey cliffs that hemmed us in on each side, were very unpleasant.

As soon as we emerged from this ditch, and surmounted a very greasy, marly height, we found before us a plain, almost without bounds, and absolutely without a tree. A ridge of mountains separates it from the sea-shore. Our muleteers pointed out to us the break in it, where the island of Escombrera closes in the harbour of Carthage. A cluster of islands to the left, appear as if they had been struck off the mountain by some furious earthquake, and tumbled headlong into the sea. Most of the plain is sown with barilla.

We dined at the door of a most pitiful *venta*, where we found only one man, sent out by the magistrates of Carthage to wait upon travellers, as the inn-keeper and all his family had been lately carried to prison, on account of a woman, who had been murdered and thrown into a pond behind his house, in which transaction they were suspected of being, at least, accessaries.

We arrived early at Carthage; for the story of the murder had operated powerfully on the minds of our muleteers, who drove very fast over the plain, to get in before night. We are lodged at the Golden Eagle, kept by a Frenchman, the best cook, in the best inn we have met with in Spain.

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L E T T E R

L E T T E R XVII.

Carthageua, December 17, 1775.

I AM in a very bad disposition for writing, for we are just returned from the arsenal, where every feeling of our humanity has been put to the torture. Heaven forbid I should communicate to you any part of the disagreeable sensations the sight of so many of my fellow-creatures in misery has excited in my soul! but I shall dwell upon the subject no longer than will be necessary to inform you of the plain matter of fact. A letter from Barcelona procured us an order from the governor for seeing the docks and magazines of this port, one of the most considerable of the Spanish dominions.

This arsenal is a spacious square, south-west of the town, under the mountains; forty pieces of cannon defend its approach from the sea; but on the land-side it is without defence. We only saw one seventy-gun ship on the stocks, and a rotten hulk heaved down to be repaired, which scarce seemed worth the time and expence bestowed upon it. Mr. Turner, an Englishman, is the head builder. The timber for ship-building lies in ponds, behind a long range of magazines for stores, opposite which the men of war are moored in a wet dock, each before

before the door of its own magazine. We were told that every one of these store-houses contained all things requisite for the compleat equipment of a ship of war; but, from the slight survey I took in walking through, I dare venture to affirm, that there is not at present, in the whole yard, a sufficient quantity of every article to fit out a frigate. The new ropery, and the forges where they put fresh touch-holes into old cannon, are established upon an extensive plan, but there is little activity in either.

The government of this yard is now in the hands of the officers of the navy, having been lately taken out of those of the civil intendants. Upon the whole, the making of these docks, and their actual management, have been, and still are, conducted after the most prodigal manner; and either from the vast demands of the late expedition, or from neglect in the administrators, there is now so inconsiderable an assortment of arms and stores, that, were it not for its celebrity, it would scarce deserve a minute's attention from a curious traveller. Yet the Spaniards are very jealous, and appear uneasy when strangers visit it; perhaps from a consciousness of there being nothing in it. There was no persuading them that we travelled merely for pleasure, with no sinister views.

The ships are heaved down in a dry dock, which, by reason of the back water, and the springs that ooze through the marshy soil, would never be clear of water,

were it not for several fire-engines continually going, and for the great pump, which is plied without intermission by Spanish criminals and Barbary slaves. Of the former, they have eight hundred; of the latter, six hundred: most of these wretches are kept at it sixteen hours out of the twenty-four, by four hours at a time; some work only twelve, and most of the Moors only eight hours. It is the hardest labour in the world: ten men are set to each pump, to the amount of about an hundred, in the room above ground, and as many in a kind of dungeon below. In summer-time, scarce a day passes without some of them dropping down dead at their work; and even at this cool season of the year, we have met every day some of them carrying to the hospital. The despair that seizes them is so outrageous, that if they can get within reach of a weapon, there are many instances of their having plunged it into their own breast, or that of some person near them, which answers the same purpose, a speedy deliverance from all their woes by death. As we were looking at them, a dirty little keeper struck a fine tall Moor over the head, for leaving his pump to beg of us. The Algerine darted a look of indignation at his tyrant, and resumed his task, without saying a word or shrinking from the blow.

On our leaving this house of sorrow, we met several strings of galley-slaves, going to relieve those at work, or to fetch their provisions. The Moors had an M on the sackcloth.

sackcloth that covers them, and the whole gang were lively pictures of malady and despair. The king allows them a pistreen a day, but I am afraid they are defrauded of their allowance; for we saw them making their dinner upon black bread, and horse-beans boiled in salt-water. We are returned quite melancholy from this scene of woe. The only reflection that diminishes our compassion, is, the atrociousness of the crimes that have brought the Christians to the chain; none are here that have not deserved death in fifty shapes. One boy, of fifteen years old, is here for the murder of his father and mother; and either murder, sacrilege, or some such enormous and horrible offences, have been perpetrated by almost all those condemned for life to this punishment. The severity exercised over the Moorish captives, is not so easily reconciled to the principles of humanity, and the meek doctrine of Christianity. Retaliation does not seem a sufficient plea.

Since I wrote the foregoing part of my letter, we have been upon a more agreeable party, which has helped to dissipate the gloomy impressions of the morning. The governor gave us leave to take a boat and row round the harbour. Some gentlemen of our acquaintance were so obliging as to accompany us, and explain the situation and intent of each particular place and fortification.

The port of Carthage is the compleatest I ever saw, formed by the hand of Nature in the figure of a heart.

The

The island of Escombrera blocks up the entrance, and shelters it from the violence of wind and waves. High, bare mountains rise very steep, from the water-edge, on the east and west. On the north, a narrow, low ridge of hills, on which the city stands, shuts out the view of the inland country. We first rowed by the arsenal, and under the mountains on the right hand, the deepest and safest position in the whole bay, where a large fleet may lie in the utmost security, out of the sight of all ships that may be at sea, or even in the narrow part of the entrance of the harbour. There are at present two frigates and four chebecs in port. As we came along-side of the *St. Joseph*, the commodore, she fired a gun, which our steersman informed us was the signal for weighing anchor and getting under sail, orders being come from court for them to leave Carthagena this day. As we were desirous of learning a little of the method and skill of the Spanish seamen, we desired our master (who, from having been long employed in the service of the English merchants, has contracted the habit of looking upon himself as an Englishman) to lie upon his oars and remain along-side, that we might have the pleasure of seeing the men of war move out. The old sailer laughed heartily at our request, and, after reminding us that we were not at Portsmouth, nor these ships English men of war, bade his men row away, as he was very certain none of the vessels would be ready to depart for three days at least, and

and that the gun was fired merely in compliance with the letter of the orders.

On our approach to the mouth of the harbour, we got out of the calm, still water we had hitherto glided upon, and began to be tossed about with great violence. The day grew cold, and the sky looking lowering towards the sea, we struck directly across the passage, in order to return to the town by the east side of the bay. This entrance is much wider than I had any idea of; the forts on the rocks, on each promontory, seem to be too far distant from the middle to do any damage to an enemy that might think it necessary to push through; but without a skilful pilot, I doubt a stranger would pay dear for his temerity; for directly in the center of the haven, in a line between the mouth and the mole-gate, lies a ledge of rocks, only five feet under water, without any breakers or rippling near it.

The east side of this port is much shallower than the west side, and the anchorage is loose and sandy. Vessels have been frequently forced from their anchors, and dashed to pieces against the rocks, by the storms from the south-west. However, with good cables, I was assured there is no great danger to be apprehended. In any other part of the harbour, the waters are perfectly dormant, never ruffled by wind or tides. There is so little agitation in them, that, during the stay of the many hundreds of vessels destined for the Algerine expedition, they became

came absolutely putrid and infectious, from the filth thrown out of the ships. Just as we landed on the pitiful platform called the mole, we had an opportunity of knowing the exact spot where the rocks lie. An English merchantman coming in at a great rate before the wind, but unfortunately without a pilot, struck upon the ledge, and was not got off without some damage.

We are now going to the play, where we are not to expect any scenes, as it is a working-day; and the actors come out from behind a bit of red curtain hung across the stage, and never move far from it, as a file of prompters are drawn up behind, whose shadows and motions are not unlike that kind of entertainment called *Italian shades*. Though there are three regiments here in garrison, besides engineers and naval officers, you can scarce imagine any thing so dull as this town. Except the wretched comedy, and the coffee-house, there is not the least life or amusement going forward. This city is large, but has very few good streets, and still fewer grand or remarkable buildings. The hospital is a large square house, round two courts, three stories high towards the sea, and only one towards the land: the architecture, and method of laying out the plan, are good; but the stone is of so soft and friable a contexture, that the sea air has corroded it, and made it crumble away more than half: there is no probability of any care being taken to repair the injury.

Farther

Farther east, at the foot of the summer-evening walk, is a small church, erected in honour of St. James, the patron of Spain, who is piously believed to have landed here, when he came from Palestine to convert this country to Christianity.

L E T T E R XVIII.

Carthagená, December 18, 1775.

I HAVE been busy all morning walking about the fields near the town, in search of specimens of the various plants, that produce the false and true barilla; but the season of the year is unfavourable to my researches, and I have only been able to meet with two sorts. Mr. James Macdonnell, a young gentleman lately settled in business here, has been so obliging as to furnish me with some notes on that head, which contain the result of many observations made on these plants in their vegetable state, and on the different modes of cultivating and preparing them for sale. The following pages convey the substance of his memorandums.

There are four plants, which in the early part of their growth bear so strong a resemblance to each other, as

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would

would deceive any but the farmers, and very nice observers. These four are, *barilla*, *gazul* (or, as some call it, *algazul*) *soza*, and *salicornia* or *salicor*. They are all burnt to ashes, but are applied to different uses, as being possessed of different qualities. Some of the roguish farmers mix more or less of the three last with the first; and it requires a compleat knowledge of the colour, taste, and smell of the ashes, to be able to detect their knavery.

The 1st, *Barilla*, is sown afresh every year. The greatest height it grows to above ground is four inches: each root pushes out a vast number of little stalks, which again are subdivided into smaller sprigs, resembling samphire, and all together form a large, spreading, tufted bush. The colour is bright green; as the plant advances towards maturity, this colour dies away, till it comes to a dull green tinged with brown.

The 2d, *Gazul*, bears the greatest affinity to *barilla*, both in quality and appearance; the principal difference consists in its growing on a still drier, saltier earth, consequently it is impregnated with a stronger salt. It does not rise above two inches out of the ground, spreading out into little tufts. Its sprigs are much flatter, and more pulpy, than those of *barilla*, and are still more like samphire. It is sown but once in three, four, or five years, according to the soil.

The 3d, *Soza*, when of the same size, has the same appearance

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pearance as gazul, but in time grows much larger, as its natural soil is a strong salt-marsh; where it is to be found in large tufts of sprigs, treble the size of barilla, and of a bright green colour, which it retains to the last.

The 4th, Salicor, has a stalk of a green colour, inclining to red, which last becomes by degrees the colour of the whole plant. From the beginning it grows upright, and much resembles a bush of young rosemary. Its natural soil is that on the declivities of hills, near salt-marshes, or on the edges of the small drains or channels cut by the husbandmen for the purpose of watering the fields: before it has acquired its full growth, it is very like the barilla of those seasons in which the ground has been dunged before sowing. In those years of manuring, barilla, contrary to its nature, comes up with a tinge of red; and when burnt, falls far short of its wonted goodness, being bitter, more impregnated with salts than it should be, emitting a disagreeable scent if held near the nose, and raising a blister if applied for a few minutes to the tongue. The other three species always have that effect. Barilla contains less salts than the others; when burnt, it runs into a mass resembling a spongy stone, with a faint cast of blue.

Algazul, after burning, comes as near barilla in its outward appearance, as it does while growing in its vegetable form; but if broken, the inside is of a much deeper

and more glossy blue. Soza and Salicor are darker, and almost black within, of a heavier consistence, with very little or no sign of spunginess.

All these ashes contain a strong alkali; but barilla the best and purest, though not in the greatest quantity. Upon this principle, it is the fittest for making glass, and bleaching linen; the others are used in making soap: each of them would whiten linen, but all, except barilla, would burn it. A good crop of barilla impoverishes the land to such a degree, that it cannot bear good barilla a second season, being quite exhausted. To avoid this inconvenience, the richer farmers lay manure upon the ground, and let it lie fallow for a season; at the end of which, it is sown afresh without danger, as the weeds that have sprung up in the year of rest, have carried off all the pernicious effects of the dung. A proper succession of crops is thus secured by manuring and fallowing different parts of the farm, each in its turn. The poorer tribe of cultivators cannot pursue the same method, for want of capital, and are therefore under the necessity of sowing their lands immediately after manuring, which yields them a profit just sufficient to afford a present scanty maintenance, though the quality and price of their barilla be but trifling.

The method used in making barilla, is the same as that we follow in the north of England, in burning kelp. The plant, as soon as ripe, is plucked up and laid in
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heaps, then set on fire; the salt juices run out below, into a hole made in the ground, where they consolidate into a black vitrified lump, which is left about a fortnight to cool. An acre may give about a tun. I was told, that there is a species of *Scarabaeus*, or beetle, that burrows in the root of the barilla, and there deposits its eggs, which foxes are so fond of as to dig up the plant to come at this favourite morsel. To gratify this appetite, they would in one night lay waste a whole plantation, if the peasants did not keep a strict watch with guns to destroy or drive them away. Nevertheless, I cannot depend enough upon my information, to vouch for its authenticity.

Not far from Carthagena, is a place called Almazaron, where they gather a fine red earth called Almagra, used in the manufactures of Saint Ildephonso, for polishing looking-glasses. In Seville, it is worked up with the tobacco, to give it a colour, fix its volatility, and communicate to it that softness, which constitutes the principal merit of Spanish snuff.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIX.

Inallos, 7 at Night, December 24, 1775.

WE are just arrived at this dismal ruinous village of mud walls, after the hardest day's labour of our whole journey, benighted, our baggage-vehicle broken to pieces, and every bone about us aching. We have been fourteen hours on the road without unharnessing the mules. I have walked many miles to-day, which has tired my legs; but at least my spirits are less jaded than they would have been had I remained locked up in the chaise, through the dangerous passages and dreadful precipices of this day. I am happy to hear that from hence to Cadiz is almost all level road, and, if it does not rain, not very bad; if there should fall a great quantity of rain, I doubt we may come to stick in the clays of Andalusia. One cook is hard at work below stairs, making us a dish of something warm to cheer our drooping hearts; with that help, a bottle of wine, and a tolerable clean room, we hope soon to drive away all remembrance of our distresses and fatigues.

On the 19th, we left Carthagena, and for two long days travelled up the plain, 'till the two ridges of mountains, that run on each side of it, unite at its head.

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The first part of this plain is very naked, but well cultivated, the last two-thirds are as compleat a desert as any in the sands of Africa; not a bush, tree, or house, to be seen in all the vast expanse of level ground; the mountains are as bare as the low lands. The want of water, productive of a want of inhabitants, accounts for this prodigious desolation; for the soil seems very fit for tillage. One of the days we dined at Lorea, a large town at the foot of the hills. I saw nothing in it to make a note of, but the dress of a gipsy, daughter to the innkeeper. Her hair was tied in a club, with a bunch of scarlet ribbons; large drops hung from her ears; and on her breast she wore a load of relics and hallowed metals; the sleeves of her gown were fastened together behind by a long blue ribbon, that hung to the ground. I could not prevail upon her to explain the use of this last piece of ornament.

On the 21st, the scene changed, but did not improve upon us; the dry bed of a torrent was our highway for half the day, and steep barren mountains for the remainder. This proved the first day of disagreeable weather we had met with on the road since we left France. It blew a perfect hurricane, and rained very heavily, with a sharp biting wind.

The next morning brought us back sunshine and genial warmth; the road grew mountainous, and more disgusting-ly bare, except for a mile or two, while we passed through
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an uneven country pretty well tilled, and planted with large bushy evergreen oaks, exactly in the manner of some of our English parks. We saw this day many vultures on wing, but they never came within reach of our guns. I can give you no information concerning the town of Baça, as we entered it after it was dark, and left it before break of day. It stands quite in a bottom, surrounded by high mountains, over which we, next morning, found the passage both difficult and frightful. Not the least agreeable patch of country on the heights, except some poor remains of ancient forests of evergreen oaks. We dined at a venta near some mountains, where we were told of mines of gold having been wrought in days of yore, but now long lost and forgotten; the little brook that runs down from them abounds in many metallic particles, which appeared to the eye lead and copper. Much *gypsum*, or plaister-stone, is also to be found in this torrent.

Yesterday afternoon, we had nothing but rapid ascents and descents, rendered incredibly greasy and fatiguing by the heavy rain of the foregoing night. Guadix, an episcopal see, is exactly situated in the same kind of gully as Baça; a narrow valley worn down by the river. The clay-hills, that encompass it on every side, are the most extraordinary in nature; they are very high, and washed into broken masses, resembling spires, towers, and mishapen rocks. Whole villages are dug in them, the
windows

windows of which appear like pigeon, or rather marten holes. The passage through is remarkably singular, winding for half a mile between two huge rugged walls of earth, without the least mixture of rock or gravel.

The Cuesta yerma, which with the utmost difficulty we climbed up this morning, is perhaps not to be matched for badness on any carriage-road in the world. All our mules yoked together were scarce able to wrench either of the carriages out of the narrow pass between the rocks, or drag them up the almost perpendicular parts of this abominable mountain. After this happy deliverance from our well-grounded fears of passing the whole day, and perhaps night, in fruitless endeavours to extricate ourselves, we travelled along a high level country, winding round the mountains of Granada. The wind was very loud, but the air warm and pleasant, though the snow lay in view along the top of that high ridge of mountains called, from their covering of snow, *sierra nevada*.

Thus, methinks, I have brought you very fairly as far as myself on our dreary journey ; and am of opinion, that neither the beauties of nature, nor those of art, to be met with in this kingdom, can be deemed an equivalent for the tediousness of travelling, the badness of the roads, or the abominable accommodations of the inns : certain it is, that no man has as yet undertaken this tour a second

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time for pleasure; and, if my advice be listened to, no body will ever attempt it once.

Granada, December 25.

Our baggage being put upon a cart this morning, we proceeded down a valley, and over some heath and forest land, till we came in view of the plain and city of Granada.—Beautiful beyond expression even in its winter weeds, what must it be when decked out in all the gaudy colours of spring? You must not expect an account of it for some days, as I intend getting all possible intelligence, turning over all my books, and examining every place, before I venture to describe this city, its palace, and environs.

L E T T E R XX.

THE Moorish kingdom of Granada consisted of those parts of Spain that lie in the south-east corner of the peninsula, and at its most flourishing period never exceeded seventy leagues in length from east to west, and twenty-five in breadth from north to south. Its historians have laboured hard to prove, that it had separate

parate monarchs soon after the Moorish conquest of Spain; but it is more than probable, that this country did not become a distinct sovereignty, while the Caliphs of the East retained any authority in Europe. By degrees, the weakness of the other Mahometan potentates, who could afford no succour against the common enemy; the coalition of the Christian kingdoms under one or two powerful heads; and, more than all, their own civil discords and deadly feuds, had, long before its final overthrow, reduced the kingdom of Granada to little more than the Alpuxaras mountains and the capital city.

The Granadine antiquaries, with Pedraza at their head, insist that Granada was a colony of the Phœnicians, known to the Romans by the name of Illiberia. They allege, in support of their system, that the walls of the most ancient of its inclosures, which was afterwards called the Alcaçaba, are of a different sort of masonry from those of the Romans and Saracens, and similar to such remains of antiquity as are universally acknowledged to be the work of the Phœnicians. The spot where this mode of building is most conspicuous, is, the *Hetna-roman*, a tower where the stones are very long and narrow, laid regularly upon beds of cement of equal thickness with the stones. It is now of little consequence to endeavour to discover the founders of this city, and an analysis of the volumes published on these chimerical

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topics, would but ill repay the time lost in writing and reading such a dissertation.

Another argument, that has afforded much entertainment to many doctors profoundly skilled in etymologies, is, the meaning, date, and origin, of the name of Granada. Some writers make out the derivation by compounding the word *Nata*, which they set down as the name of Count Julian's daughter ⁷, with the word *Gar*, a cave, where she retired after the battle of Xeres: others will have it to come from the abundance of corn (*Grano*): and some again from *Nata*, a goddess of the Aborigines: others, with an appearance of probability, ascribe the origin of the name to the pleasantness and fertility of its environs, a word very like it, in the Phœnician language, meaning *fruitful* and *agreeable*. The Romans expressed the same signification by the title of *municipium floren-*

⁷ It is the common opinion (though not sufficiently warranted by authentic testimonies) that Rodrigo, last king of the Goths, ravished the daughter of Julian, governor of Africa. The father, enraged at such an injury, made a treaty with the Saracens, whom he induced to cross the Straits and invade Spain. Musa, lieutenant of the Caliph Walid, sent over Tarif with a small force to try his strength. There being great appearance of success, Tarif received a considerable reinforcement, and attacked the Goths near Xeres de la frontera. The Goths were defeated, their king killed, and the Gothic empire annihilated in 712. Musa, and his immediate successors, completed the conquest of all Spain, except the mountains of Oviedo, where Pelayo afterwards formed a principality, the parent of all the other Spanish kingdoms.

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finum illiberitanum. The Arabs called it *Roman*; the Jews *Rimmón*: and there are authors that derive it from *Granatum*, a pomegranate, brought from Africa, and first planted near this place. Many affirm it to be called so from the resemblance its position bears to that fruit when ripe; the two hills to represent the bursting skin, and the houses crowded into the intermediate valley, the pips. This is a very favourite opinion, and seems to be adopted by the nation, which gives a split pomegranate for its arms, and places it upon every gate or ornamented post in the streets and public walks.

Granada stands on two hills, at the foot of the *Sierra nevada*, where two small rivers join their waters. One of them, the Dauro, sometimes washes down gold; the other, the Xenil, virgin silver; but it was not possible for me to procure any specimens of either, on account of the severe prohibition issued out by government against all searchers after mines and minerals. The ancient palace of the *Alhambra*, and the *Torre vermeja*, crown the double summit of the hill between the rivers; the other hill, north of the Dauro, is covered with the *Albaycin* and *Alcaçaba*. The remainder of the city extends along the skirts of the plain in a semicircular form. The Vega, or plain, is eight leagues long, and four broad; a gentle slope of beautiful hillocks bound the horizon on all sides, except that of the *Sierra nevada*, and to the north-west, where it is terminated by the bare top of the *Sierra Elwira*,

Elvira, or *Sierra de los infantes*. This mountain was so named from the death of the princes of Castille, Peter and John, who perished here, through excess of heat and thirst, in a battle against the Moors, 1319.

The country about Granada was so alluring, the situation so striking, and the salubrity of its air so universally celebrated, that the victorious Saracens soon were induced to turn their arms that way. It was taken by the forces of Tarif in 715, the ninety-fifth year of the He-gira^s. As long as Spain remained subject to the viceroys of the Caliphs of the family of the Ommiades, Granada does not appear to have undergone any great revolution, although now and then an ambitious governor might make an attempt towards independency. The first that brought this design to bear, and rendered the crown hereditary in his family, was Mehemed Alhamar, governor of Arjone, who began his reign in 1236.

Mehemet Alhamar.

1236. This first king became tributary to St. Ferdinand, king of Castille, and paid him one moiety of all his revenues, which half amounted to one hundred and seventy thousand pieces of gold: he even assisted that prince in his conquest of Seville.

1273. The second king was his son Muley Mehemed Abdallah, who is said to have begun the Alhambra.

^s The flight of Mahomet, which happened in the night between the 15th and 16th of July, in the year 622.

1302. 3. *Mehemed Abenalhamar* the blind, son to Muley, was dethroned and murdered by his brother. Mehemed had a great passion for building; one of the magnificent monuments he left for the admiration of posterity, was the great mosque included in the Alhambra. The form was most elegant, the inside mosaic, adorned with ingenious devices in sculpture, supported upon lofty pillars with silver bases and capitals. He endowed this pious foundation with revenues arising from the baths, which he had built opposite to it, out of the tribute paid by the Christians and Jews. He also purchased lands, and let them out for the benefit of this mosque.

1310. *Nazer aba algueiusch* murdered his brother, and was himself driven into banishment by his sister's son.

1315. *Ismael ben pharagi abulgualid*, who was murdered by the alcayde of Algeziras, from whom he had forcibly taken a very beautiful female captive.

1326. *Mehemed Abuabdallah*, his son, succeeded. This prince was murdered by his own servants⁹, and succeeded by his son.

⁹ In a sally which the Christians made during the siege of Baeca, this king of Granada hurled a lance, enriched with precious stones, at a Spanish foldier; who, finding himself grievously wounded, limped away towards the town with the weapon fixed in his body. The Moors rushed forwards to recover the lance, but Mehemed forbade them to molest the poor wretch, and suffered him to carry away the spear to pay for his cure.

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1333. *Jusaf Abubagiagi*. In 1340, this king, and Abi Hassan, king of Morocco, were defeated in the famous battle of Salado, by Alphonfus the eleventh. From that day Granada declined in power, and gradually dwindled away. The uninterrupted series of evil fortune that attended this unhappy prince, at length drew upon him the universal hatred of his subjects, one of whom stabbed him in the street.

1354. His successor was *Mehemed Lago*, a younger brother of Pheragi. He was dethroned by his cousin, *Mehemed Ismael ben Alhamar*. Don Pedro, king of Castille, having always been intimately connected with Lago, espoused the cause of that exiled prince with great warmth, and made several attempts to reinstate him. Ben Alhamar, diffident of his own strength, and pressed to it by the entreaties of his counsellors, thought it safest to submit, and purchase the friendship of Pedro at any rate. With this view, he demanded a safe conduct, and went to the court of Seville, where he threw himself at the feet of the Spanish monarch, with the immense treasures he had brought with him as presents. That king received him with all apparent respect and cordiality for a few days, but then he ordered him, and thirty of his most noble attendants, to be led

led round the city upon asses, and afterwards to be brought to the field of the Tablada, where, if any credit is to be given to the Spanish historians, Don Pedro himself ran the unfortunate Mehemed through with a lance. His death being made known at Granada, Lago resumed the reins of government without opposition, and died quietly in 1379.

1379. His son Mehemed Abouhadjad, was one of the best kings that ever reigned in Granada. He preferred the solid advantages of peace to all the brilliancy of military glory. Under his wife administration, the kingdom gradually recovered its vigour; commerce and husbandry gave spirit and alacrity to every part of the realm, and spread abundance over the face of the land. His attention to the more important objects of government, did not prevent his shewing himself an earnest promoter and protector of the fine arts. The cities of Granada and Guadix were embellished with many noble structures during his reign. His affection for the latter was so conspicuous, that he was surnamed by his people, Mehemed of Guadix. He had the address to maintain peace with the Castilians, and at his death left a flourishing, peaceful succession to his son,

1392. Juzaf Abiabdallah, who was destroyed by means
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of an envenomed shirt, sent as a present by the Sultan of Fez.

1396. Mehemed Balba, second son to Juzaf, seized upon the crown in prejudice of his elder brother, and passed his life in one continual round of disasters. His wars with Castille were invariably unsuccessful. His death was also caused by a poisoned vest. As soon as he found his case desperate, he dispatched an officer to the fort of Salobrena, to kill his brother Juzaf, lest that prince's party should form any obstacle to his son's succeeding to the crown. The Alcayde found the prince playing at chess with an Alfaqui or priest. Juzaf begged hard for two hours respite, which was denied him; at last, with great reluctance, the officer permitted him to finish the game. Before it was ended, a messenger arrived with the news of the death of Mehemed, and of the unanimous election of Juzaf to the crown.

1408. Juzaf Abul Haxex. The most unwearied impotency, and abject submission, were unable to procure him a peace with the Christians. The regent of Castille, D. Ferdinand, being inflexibly bent upon expelling the whole Saracen race out of our continent. At length, Ferdinand was elected king of Aragon, and finding sufficient employment with the affairs of his new kingdom, gave up all thoughts of his Moorish conquests, and listened to the proposals

posals of the king of Granada. A truce was agreed upon, and afterwards a peace concluded, which afforded Juzaf an opportunity of repairing his losses. He wound up the end of his days in tranquillity, and employed them solely in gaining the affections of his people, by a steady pursuit of a most equitable plan of administration. From the time Juzaf became possessed of the royal dignity, he was never known to shew the least sign of resentment against the grandees that had assisted his brother in depriving him of his birth-right and liberty: nay more, he conferred great honours and favours upon many of them, and gave them posts of trust in various capacities. Some of his own party found fault with his lenity, and endeavoured to work him up to the destruction of those noblemen; but Juzaf always made answer, Would you have me, by my cruelty, furnish them with an excuse for having preferred my brother to me? He educated the sons of Mehemed in his palace, and treated them in every respect like his own children.

1423. His eldest son, Mehemed Elazari, or the left-handed, succeeded. He was more remarkable for the strange vicissitudes of his fortune, than for any thing great of his own atchieving: his tyranny and negligence encouraged his cousin-german,

1427. Mehemed El Zugair, or the lesser, to take up

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arms against him, and drive him out of the kingdom. Two years after Elazari, with the assistance of the kings of Castille and Tunis, retook Granada, and made El Zugair prisoner, whom he put to death in the most cruel and ignominious manner that could be devised.

1429. Elazari being thus restored to his throne, was far from altering his method of proceeding; in consequence of which, after many defeats in a bloody war against the Christians, he was a second time dethroned, and the grandson of that Mehemed who was killed at Seville, raised up in his stead.

1432. Juzaf aben Almaoalnayar gave great hopes of his proving a just and wise monarch; but his death, which happened in the sixth month of his reign, put an end to all his projects, and Mehemed Elazari, was once more proclaimed king. The people of Granada were now become so well accustomed to a frequent change of masters, and so very prone to novelty, that it was no longer possible for any prince to remain firm in the royal seat for any length of time. Accordingly Elazari, that perpetual butt of fortune, was for the third and last time deprived of his sceptre, and shut up in a close prison by his nephew,

1445. Mehemed ben Osmin, surnamed the Tame. In the beginning of his reign, he waged war against the
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the Christians with great success; but in the year 1452, his good fortune abandoned him, and he met with nothing ever after but crosses and disappointments. The king of Castille spirited up against him a competitor for the crown, Ismael, his cousin-german; who being admitted into the capital by a party he had previously secured, surprized Mehemed, and threw him into the same dungeon where their common uncle had already languished eight years. Thus ended these two princes like puppets, which, after having been made to move upon the stage the time allotted for representation, are thrown by in a lumber-room, and never thought of more.

1453. Ismael thus found himself in the peaceable possession of a crown, which had been so often shifted from head to head, and so mutilated and curtailed during a long series of misfortunes, that any sagacious observer might safely pronounce the period of its final dissolution to be near at hand. The Christians had so long laid waste with fire and sword the rich plain of Granada, that Ismael found that source of plenty almost irretrievably lost. To make up in some degree for this deficiency, he ordered a large tract of forest to be cleared, and the mountainous lands behind Granada to be levelled, and converted into arable and garden grounds. Earth was

was even brought from the Vega, to render the hills more fruitful. Great supplies of water were conveyed from the Dauro, by means of aqueducts and conduits, to water those eminences naturally barren and parched up by the sun. These improvements were the support of the Granadines, after their implacable enemies had not only burnt their crops in the plains, but even destroyed their farms, cut down their fruit-trees, rooted up their vines, and changed one of the most delightful spots on earth into a mere naked desert. Upon engaging to pay an annual tribute of twelve thousand ducats, and to deliver every year six hundred Christian captives, or, in case of there being none to release, an equal number of Moors (an almost incredible condition, which more than any thing evinces the miserable state of this kingdom) the Moors at last obtained a peace, or rather truce, which even did not extend to that part of the kingdom that is near Jaen.

1475. Muley Mehemed Abilhaffan succeeded his father Ismael, and was so imprudent as to engage in a war with Castille, which ended only with the ruin of the Mussulman empire in Spain. The first important conquest of the Spaniards was Alhama, a town famous for its magnificent baths, whither the Moorish princes were wont frequently to retire for
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their health and diversion. In 1484, Abilhassan having put away his wife Ayxa, and taken to his bed Fatima, a Grecian slave, surnamed for her beauty *Zoraya*, or the morning-star, the disgraced Sultana made her escape from the Alhambra, and raised a rebellion in favour of her son Abouabdoulah. The old king was forced to fly for refuge to Malaga, to his brother El Zagal, who soon after gained great glory by a victory he obtained over the grand master of St. Jago. About the same time, the young king was routed and taken prisoner by the Castellians at Lucena, being the first Arabian prince led into captivity by the Christians. Hassan was restored; but Ferdinand of Aragon, husband to Isabella of Castille, set the son at liberty, with a view of fomenting their civil dissensions, and thereby facilitating the conquest of their kingdom. El Zagal, soon quarrelled with the old king, and drove him into exile, where he died soon after, in misery and despair.

Abouabdoulah, or the young king, was the lawful monarch; but his uncle, who had already destroyed one rival, endeavoured to put the other also out of the way by assassination. The plot was discovered, the nephew's party prevailed, and El Zagal, rather than submit to his own relation, from whom he had no right to expect mercy, went over, and delivered up all his possessions to Ferdinand. The Spanish monarch immediately summoned Abouabdoulah to fulfil the conditions of the treaty,

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upon which he had obtained his liberty. These were, to deliver up Granada, as soon as Almeria, Guadix, and Baca, should be in the hands of the Spaniards. This contingency was now come to pass. It was not natural to suppose the Moor would submit tamely to his utter ruin; therefore Ferdinand, who had foreseen his refusal, laid siege to Granada. After nine months blockade, for the completing of which he built a new town, called Santa Fé, he obliged the Moorish king to surrender. Ferdinand and Isabel made their triumphant entry on the 2d of January 1492. Abouabdoulah, in his way to Purchena, the place appointed for his residence, stopped on the hill of Padul, to take a last farewell look of his beloved Granada. The sight of his city and palace, to which he was then about to bid an eternal adieu, overcame his resolution: he burst into a flood of tears, and, in the anguish of his soul, broke out into the most bitter exclamations against the hardness of his fate. The Sultaneſs Ayxa, his mother, upbraided him for his weakness, in the following terms: "Thou doſt well to weep, like a woman, over the loſs of that kingdom, which thou kneweſt not how to defend, and die for, like a man."

This prince was the laſt Moor that reigned in Spain, where their empire had ſubſiſted ſeven hundred and eighty-two years.

Such Moorish families as remained in Granada after the diſſolution of the monarchy, were continually moleſted by

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by zealous priests and bigotted princes. Every article of the capitulation was in its turn eluded, or openly violated, and the Moors reduced to the alternative of renouncing the religion of their ancestors, or of abandoning their native country. The Spanish clergy, not at all satisfied with the outward shew of conversion in those that had embraced the Christian religion, were eager to discern the sincere from the hypocrite, and therefore set spies over them, encouraged all accusations, and cavilled with every part of their dress and behaviour. Thus harassed, and urged to the very brink of despair, the Moriscos, as they were then called, formed a grand conspiracy, which broke out on Christmas night, in the year 1568. Having placed at their head a young man, descended from their ancient princes, by name Ferdinand de Valor, which he changed to Mehemed Aben Humeya, they rose in arms in most parts of the kingdom of Granada. The revolt began by wreaking the most bloody vengeance on all Christians, especially priests, that fell into their hands. Notwithstanding considerable forces were sent against them, and many furious battles fought between the Spaniards and the insurgents, generally to the disadvantage of the latter, the rebellion continued in great vigour near two years. Aben Humeya, having betrayed an inclination to capitulate, was murdered by his own officers, and a desperate captain, called Abenaboo, elected in his stead. This shadow of royalty soon passed away, and met with the fate

of his predecessor. After his assassination, the Moriscos submitted, and were dispersed all over Spain, the rabble of the two Castiles being sent to occupy their lands.

In the year 1610, Philip the third issued out an edict, commanding every person of Moorish extraction, without exception, to retire out of Spain, which rigorous, and extraordinary order was to all appearance punctually obeyed; yet so late as the year 1724, the inquisition ferretted out, and drove into banishment, some considerable remnants of that unfortunate race.

L E T T E R XXI.

DRYDEN has built the ground-work of his play, of *The conquest of Granada*, upon circumstances taken out of a romantic history of the dissensions between the Zegrís and the Abencerrages, noble Moors of Granada, by Giles Perez. The Spanish ballad, translated in Dr. Percy's relics of ancient poetry, is drawn from the same source. As Perez is an author read by all ranks of people in this country, his dreams are generally received as undoubted facts, consecrated by tradition; and most of the tales repeated by the keepers of the palace, &c. have

have been learnt in his book. Indeed ¹⁰ Medina Conti, author of the *Passeos de Granada*, pretends to have found an Arabic manuscript account of these times, which corroborates the testimony of Peres; but these writers are such notorious impostors, that little credit can be given to any thing they advance: however, there must undoubtedly be some foundation for these anecdotes, and a previous knowledge of them is rather necessary for the perfect understanding of the description of the Alhambra; I shall therefore presume so far upon your patience, as to sketch you out an abstract of the latter part of his history.

In the days of Boabdil or Abouabdoulah, the last king of Granada, the Alabeces, Abencerrages, Zegrís, and Gomeles, were the most powerful families in that city;

¹⁰ Conti, in order to favour the pretensions of the church in a great lawsuit, forged deeds and inscriptions, which he buried in the ground where he knew they would shortly be dug up again. Upon their being found, he published engravings of them, and gave explanations of their unknown characters, making them out to be so many authentic proofs and evidences of the assertions of the clergy. His imposture was detected, and he now lies in prison, without much hope of ever recovering his liberty. I am told he is a most learned, ingenious man, profoundly skilled in the antiquities of his country. The Morocco ambassador, in his way through Granada, purchased of this man a copper bracelet of Fatima, which Medina proved, by the Arabic inscription, and many certificates, to be genuine, and found among the ruins of part of the Alhambra, with other treasures of the last king, who had hid them there in hopes of better days. This famous bracelet turned out afterwards to be the work of Medina's own hands, and made out of an old brass candlestick.

they filled most of the great employments about court, and scarce a brilliant atchievement in war was heard of, that was not performed by the arm of some knight of these four houses. High above the rest towered the Abencerrages, unequalled in gallantry, magnificence, and chivalry. None among the Abencerrages more accomplished, more distinguished, than Albin Hamet, who for his great wisdom and valour stood deservedly foremost in the list of the king's favourites. His power rose to such a pitch, that it excited the most violent envy in the breast of the Zegris and Gomeles, who determined to pull him down from this post of superior eminence. After concerting many schemes for his destruction, none appeared to them more effectual than one proposed by a consummate villain of the Zegri family. He seized an opportunity of being alone with the king, whose character was as yet frank and unsuspicious; assuming an air of extreme anguish of mind, he observed to the prince how very weak his conduct appeared to all wise men, by reposing such unbounded confidence in, and trusting his person with, such traitors as the Abencerrages, who were well known to be laying a scheme for a general revolt, thereby to deprive Abouabdoulah of his life and crown. Nay more, he, and three men of honour, had seen the queen in wanton-dalliance with Albin Hamet Abencerrage, behind the lofty cypresses in the gardens of the Generaliph, from whence Hamet had returned insolently crowned with a garland of

of roses. These calumnies roused all the furies of jealousy in the breast of the credulous monarch, and the destruction of the whole lineage of Abencerrage was planned in the bloody junto. The principal men of the devoted family were, under some pretence or other, summoned one by one to attend the king in the court of lions. No sooner was each unhappy victim admitted within the walls, than he was seized by the Zegrís, led to a large alabaster basin in one of the adjoining halls, and there beheaded. Thirty-six of the noblest of the race had already perished, before the treachery was discovered. A page belonging to one of those noblemen, having found means to follow his master in, and to get out again unseen, divulged the secret of this bloody transaction. The treason once known, all Granada was in an instant up in arms, and many desperate combats ensued, which, by the great havock made amongst the most valiant of its chieftains, brought the state to the very brink of ruin. These tumults being appeased by the wisdom of Musa, a bastard brother of the king, a grand council was held, in which Abouabdoulah declared his reasons for the punishment inflicted on the Abencerrages; *viz.* their conspiracy, and the adultery of the queen. He then solemnly pronounced her sentence, which was, to be burnt alive, if within thirty days she did not produce four knights to defend her cause against the four accusers. The queen's relations were upon the point of drawing their scimitars in the audience-

audience-chamber, and rescuing her from the danger that threatened her ; but their fury was checked by the eloquence of Musa, who observed to them, they might by violence save the life of the Sultana, but by no means clear her reputation in the eyes of the world ; which would certainly look upon that cause as unjust, which refused to submit to the customary trial. The queen was immediately shut up in the tower of Comares. Many Granadine warriors were ambitious of having the honour of exposing their lives in her quarrel, but none were so happy as to prove the object of her choice. She had conceived so high an idea of the Christians, from the valour she had seen them display in a great tournament lately held at Granada, and the treachery of the Zegrís had impressed her with so despicable an opinion of Moorish honour, that she was determined to rest her defence upon the gallantry of the Spanish knights. In hopes of rousing their noble spirit to action, she dispatched a trusty messenger with a letter to Don Juan de Chacon, lord of Carthagená, entreating him to espouse her cause, and like a true knight, bring with him three brave warriors to stand her friends on the day appointed. Chacon returned for answer, that he set too high a price upon that honour, not to be punctual to the hour of trial. The fatal day arrived, and all Granada was buried in the deepest affliction, to find that their beloved queen had been so remiss as not to have named one of her defenders.

Musa,

Musa, Azarque, and Almoradi, the judges of the combat, pressed her, in vain, to accept of their swords, or those of several other warriors willing to assert the justness of her cause. The Sultana, relying on the Spanish faith, persisted in her refusal; upon which, the judges conducted her down from the Alhambra, to a scaffold in the great square, hung with black, where they seated themselves on one side. At the sight of this beauty in distress, the whole place resounded with loud cries and lamentations; and it was with difficulty that the spectators could be restrained from attacking her enemies, and rescuing her by main force. Scarce were the judges seated, when twenty trumpets announced the approach of the four accusers, who advanced armed cap-à-piè, mounted on the finest couriers of Andalusia. Over their armour they wore loose vests, with plumes and slashes of a tawny colour. On their shields were painted two bloody swords, and these words: *For the truth we draw them.*—All their kinsmen and adherents accompanied them to their post within the lists. In vain did the crowd cast a longing eye towards the gate through which the champions of injured innocence were to enter; none appeared from eight in the morning to two in the afternoon. The Sultana's courage began to fail her; and, when four valiant Moors presented themselves, to sue for the honour of drawing their swords to vindicate her innocence, she promised to trust her life in their hands, if within two hours the persons

sons she expected should not appear. At that instant a great noise was heard, and four Turkish horsemen came prancing into the square. One of them addressed the judges, requesting the favour of speaking to the Queen; which being granted, he knelt down, and told her aloud, that he and his companions were Turks, come to Spain with the design of trying their strength against the heroes of Ferdinand's army; but that, hearing of this solemn trial, they had changed their resolution, and were now arrived at Granada, to devote their first essay of arms in Spain to her service, and hoped she would approve of them for her champions. As he spoke, he let drop into her lap the letter she had written to Don Juan; by the sight of which, she discovered this feigned Turk to be no other than the lord of Carthagená, who had brought with him, as companions in this dangerous conflict, the duke of Arcos, Don Alonzo de Aguilar, and Don Ferdinand de Cordova. The queen accepted of their proposal; and the judges having solemnly declared her choice, gave orders for the charge to sound. The onset was fierce, and the fight long doubtful. At length, Don Juan overthrew Mahandin Gomel, and the duke slew Alihamet Zegri; Mahandon Gomel fell by the sword of Aguilar, and the last of all, the arch-traitor Mahomed Zegri, disabled by repeated wounds, and fainting with loss of blood, sunk at the feet of Don Ferdinand; who, setting his knee on the infidel's breast, and holding his dagger

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to his throat, summoned him to confess the truth, or die that instant. "Thou need'st not add another wound," said Mahomad, "for the last will prove sufficient to rid the world of such a monster. Know then, that to revenge myself of the Abencerrages, I invented the lye that caused their destruction, and the persecution of the Sultana; whom I here declare free from all stain or reproach whatsoever, and with my dying breath implore her forgiveness." The judges came down to receive this deposition of the expiring Zegri, and it was afterwards announced to the people, who expressed their joy by the loudest acclamations. The day ended in festivity and rejoicing. The queen was escorted back in triumph to the palace, where the penitent Abouabdallah fell at her feet, and with floods of tears endeavoured to atone for his crime; but to no purpose; for the queen remained inflexible, and, retiring to the house of her nearest of kin, refused to have any further intercourse with him. The four knights left Granada, without discovering themselves to any other person; and soon after, the numerous friends and adherents of the Abencerrages abandoned the city, and, by their secession into Castille or Africa, left Abouabdallah destitute of able officers, and entirely at the mercy of his enemies, who in the course of a few months deprived him of his kingdom.

L E T T E R XXII.

WE have got acquainted with a very conversable old Spanish officer, of a great family, and still greater appetite. He has very freely imparted to us all he knows about the present as well as ancient state of this province, and the comparisons he makes between them, often draws a sigh from us all three. His nephew is possessed of large lordships and estates in the neighbourhood; which has afforded him many opportunities of coming at good information on a subject we are very desirous of investigating, I mean, whether there exist any remains of Moorish families in this country, and what is the tradition concerning the manners and customs of that people before their expulsion.

Granada, while governed by its own kings, the last years excepted, seems to have enjoyed greater affluence and prosperity than ever it has done since it became a province of Spain. Before the conquest, it was one of the most compact, well-peopled, opulent kingdoms in the world. Its agriculture was brought to great perfection, its revenues and circulation were immense; the public works carried on with great magnificence, and its population not to be credited by any person that sees it in its present

present condition. Nothing but the numerous ruins scattered over its hills can induce one to believe, that those bleak, barren wastes, which make up more than two-thirds of the province, were formerly covered with luxuriant plantations of fruit-trees, abundant harvests, or noble forests. Each Moor had his allotment of as much ground as sufficed for his habitation, the maintenance of his family, and the provender of his horse, which every man was obliged to keep. These small freeholds formed the general appearance of the country, before the incessant inroads and ravages of the Christians had driven the Moors to cities, mountains of difficult access, or quite away to the coast of Barbary. The single city of Granada contained eighty thousand families, and frequently sent out armies of thirty thousand foot, and ten thousand horse. An Arabian author says, that the kings had a constant stock of an hundred thousand horses for their own use, and for mounting their cavalry in time of war, and more than once had mustered two hundred thousand soldiers in actual pay, for the purpose of making war upon the Castilians.

A great deal of silk was produced in the plain, and the hills behind the city afforded corn enough for its consumption. The rich mines of the mountains were opened, and, tho' not wrought with any thing like the skill of modern miners, yielded such a quantity of gold and silver, that both metals were more common in Gra-

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166 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

“ of the Molekites. They pay implicit obedience to the
 “ mandates of their princes; are patient of labour, and
 “ above measure liberal: in person comely; of a middle
 “ stature, with small noses, clear complexions, and black
 “ hair: elegant in their language, but rather prolix in
 “ discourse: in dissenting and disputing, haughty and
 “ obstinate. The greater number of their families de-
 “ rive their origin from houses of Barbary. Their dress
 “ is striped Persian or Turkish robes of the highest
 “ prices, either fine woollens, linens, silks, or cottons.
 “ In winter they wear the *Albornos*, or African cloak;
 “ in summer a loose white wrapper. The soldiers of
 “ Spanish extraction use in war a short coat of mail,
 “ light helmet, Arabian horse-furniture, a leathern buck-
 “ ler and slender spear. Those born in Africa bear
 “ very long staves, which they call *Amras*, i. e. rope-
 “ ends. Their dwellings are but slightly built. It is
 “ very curious to assist at the diversions of their festivals;
 “ for then the young people assemble in sets at the danc-
 “ ing-houses, and sing all manner of licentious ballads.
 “ The citizens of Granada eat the very best of wheaten
 “ bread, throughout the year; the poorer sort, and la-
 “ bourers, are sometimes, in winter-time, obliged to put
 “ up with barley-bread, which, however, is excellent in
 “ its kind. They have every sort of fruit in abundance,
 “ especially grapes, of which the quantity eaten is incre-
 “ dible. The vineyards in the neighbourhood bring in
 “ fourteen

“ fourteen thousand aurei. Immense are the hoards of
 “ all species of dried fruits, such as figs, raisins, plumbs,
 “ &c. They have also the secret of preserving grapes
 “ sound and juicy from one season to another.

“ Both their gold and silver coin is good, and near to
 “ purity.

“ Many are the amusements and recreations of the
 “ citizens, when they retire in autumn to their pretty
 “ villas in the suburbs. They are passionately fond of
 “ decking themselves out with gems, and ornaments of
 “ gold and precious stones.

“ The women are handsome, but of a stature rather
 “ below the middle size, so that it is rare to meet with
 “ a tall one among them: they are very delicate, and
 “ proud of encouraging a prodigious length of hair;
 “ their teeth white as the driven snow, and their whole
 “ person kept perfectly sweet, by the abundant use of
 “ the most exquisite perfumes; light and airy in their
 “ gait, of a sprightly acute wit, and smart in conversa-
 “ tion. In this age, the vanity of the sex has carried the
 “ art of dressing themselves out with elegance, profusion,
 “ and magnificence, to such an excess, that it can no
 “ longer be simply called luxury, but is become absolute
 “ downright madness.”

In Granada, no house was without its pipe of water,
 and in every street were copious fountains for the public
 convenience. In short, they neglected no art or inven-
 tion.

tion that could contribute towards rendering their lives easy and voluptuous. I am afraid their urbanity and refinement helped to accelerate their ruin.

You have hitherto been shewn the brilliant side of the picture ; alas ! how different will you find it, when considered from another point of view, that of its present state. The glories of Granada have passed away with its old inhabitants ; its streets are choaked with filth ; its aqueducts crumbled to dust ; its woods destroyed ; its territory depopulated ; its trade lost ; in a word, every thing, except the church and law, in a most deplorable situation.

At the time of the expulsion of the Moors, such of them as were particularly skilled in the silk-manufactures, or in the art of conveying and distributing water to the grounds, were suffered to remain in the kingdom. Besides these, some were lucky enough to find powerful protectors, who screened them from sharing the common fate of their brethren. So late as the year 1726, the Inquisition, with the sanction of government, seized upon three hundred and sixty families, accused of secret Mahometism, and confiscated all their effects, which have been estimated at twelve millions of crowns : an immense sum, of which no account was ever given ! The ancestors of these people had at their baptism assumed the surnames of their godfathers, by which means they had the same appellations as many of the best families in Spain ;
a kind

a kind of relationship that was of great service to them in their misfortune, and probably saved their lives from the fury of the holy office. They were dispersed into distant parts of Spain, where, it is said, that with so much experience and skill in commerce, they soon grew rich again, and no doubt acquired wisdom enough to secure their second acquisitions better than their first. They were the principal merchants and monied men of Granada; their custom was to buy up for ready money all the silk made in the Vega, and sometimes advance the value of it to the landholders before the season. This raw silk they distributed to the manufacturers in the city, whom they supplied with cash for their present maintenance, and were repaid by degrees in wrought silks. All these artificers thrived under their protection, and provided a comfortable subsistence for themselves and their families. The proprietors of land felt the sweets of a ready sale for their commodities; and the annual produce of silk in this province, before the year 1726, seldom fell short of two millions six hundred thousand pounds weight, whereas now it does not exceed one hundred thousand.

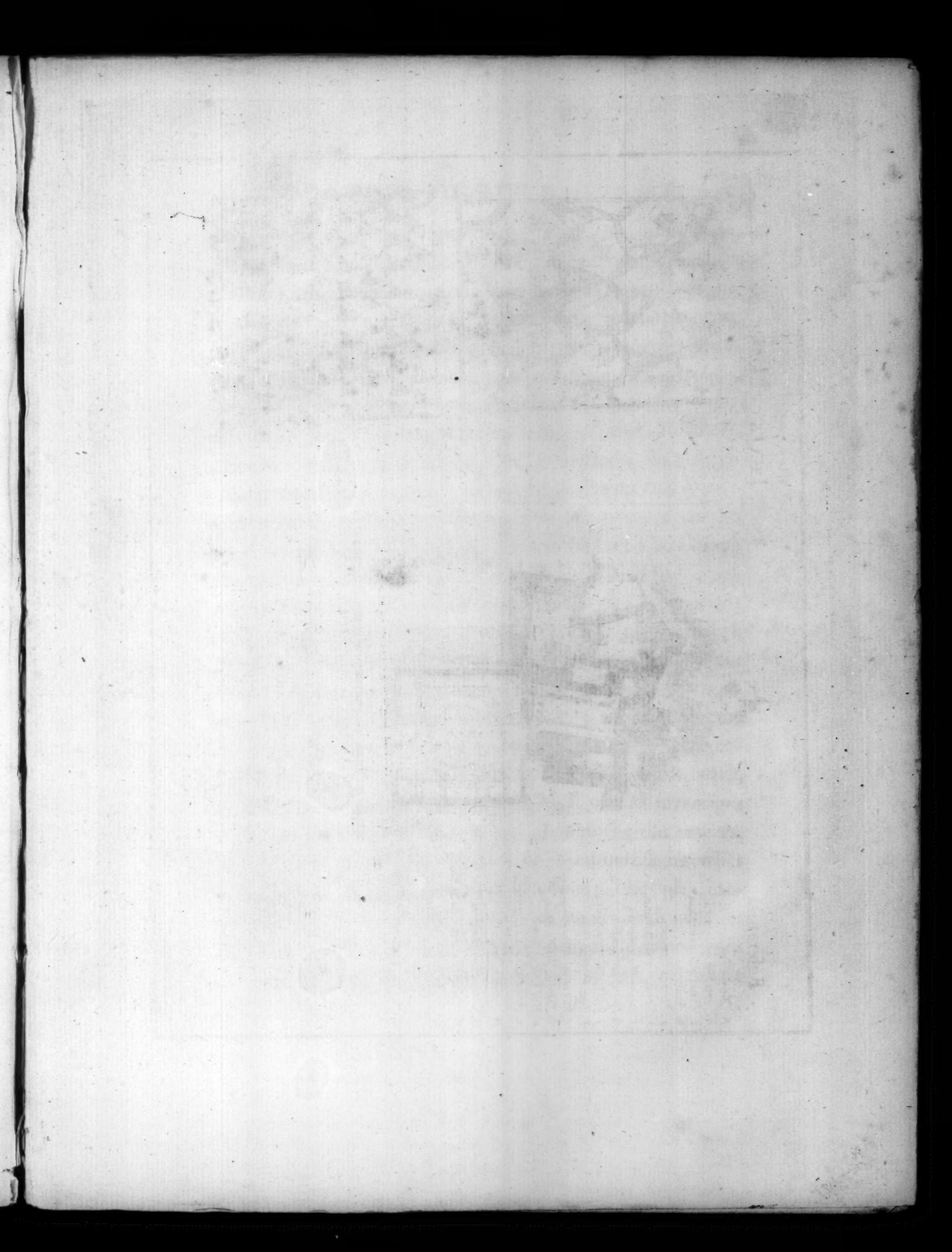
The sea-coast of Granada, from Marbella to Motril, afforded formerly large quantities of sugar, which was an article of commerce to Madrid, till within these thirty years. What is now produced, is consumed in the neighbourhood in sweetmeats. From heavy duties which were laid on this branch of trade, and still continue, it is al-

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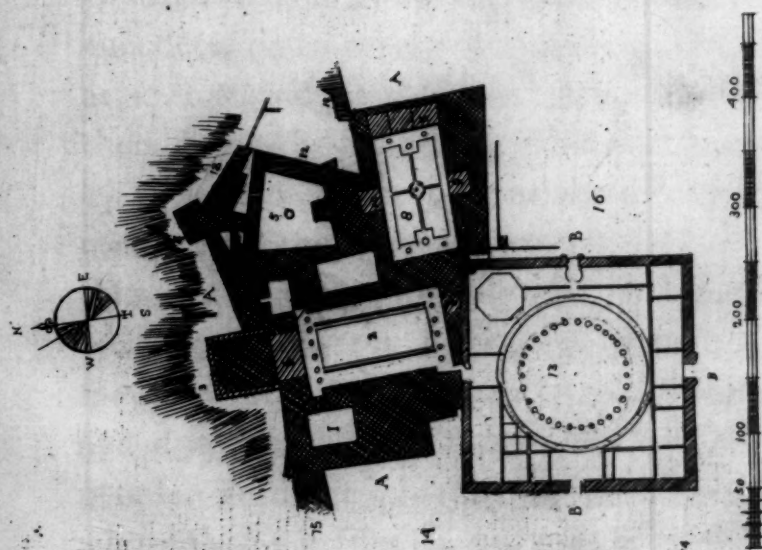
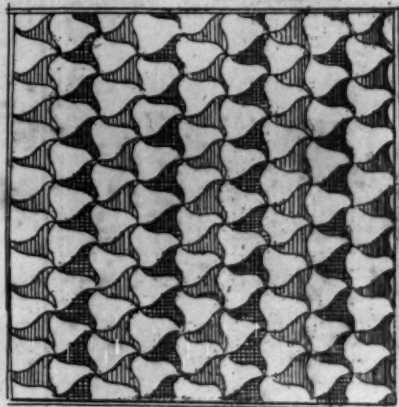
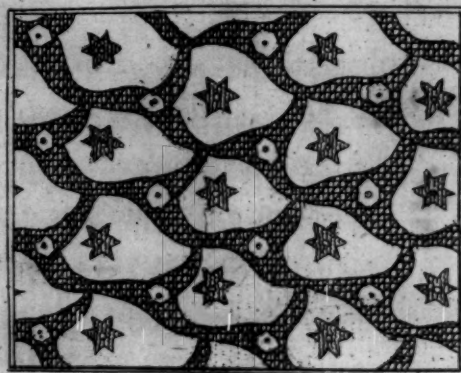
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most lost, there being now only three mills at work, in a declining state. At Motril, and at Toros near Velez, sugar-canes have been produced nine feet high, and of a proportionable thickness. They say, the first plants were carried from thence to the West Indies, and that the quality and grain of the sugar is still equal to any imported from thence.

A village in the mountains up the Dauro, is to this day almost wholly composed of the descendants of Moors; but it is not possible to know whether they have retained any attachment to the customs and religion of their ancestors, or whether they are as good Christians at heart as in outward appearance. You may easily distinguish them from the Castilians who were transplanted hither, by their round plump faces, and small bright eyes, little nose, and projecting under jaw. In their deportment, they are extremely humble and smooth-tongued; but so tenacious of their ready money, that it is with difficulty they can prevail upon themselves to part with the rents and dues which they cannot well avoid paying. These people, and the progeny of the Mosarabic Christians, who inhabited the country before the conquest, are esteemed a much better race of men, both as to morals and industry, than the descendants of those vagabonds of Castile, who constitute the major part of the present inhabitants. Many vestiges of Moorish manners and customs may still be traced:—when they go in summer to bathe,



PIECES OF MOSAIC on the Walls of the Commune



PLAN OF THE PALACES
of
Charles the fifth, and of
the Moorish Kings
in the Alhambra of Granada.

References

- A. Moorish Part.
- B. Part built by Charles V.
- 1. Chapel of Governor's House.
- 2. Commune.
- 3. Torre de Comares.
- 4. Tocador of the Sultana.
- 5. Garden of Lindaraxa.
- 6. Hall of Embassadors.
- 7. Gallery of communication.
- 8. Court of the Lions.
- 9. Hall of the Absences.
- 10. Torre de dos Hermanas.
- 11. Hall of the Pictures.
- 12. Additions by y^e Emperor.
- 13. Circular Portico.
- 14. Court of the Cisterns.
- 15. Court of the Church of the Alhambra.
- 16. Court of the Church of the Alhambra.

bathe, at the end of a plentiful harvest, or on receiving a piece of good news, they are wont to set up the most hideous yells and outcries imaginable. I was assured, that whenever any sailors belonging to the Maltese ships stray up from Malaga, the populace of Granada, hearing them speak Arabic, and seeing them dressed in a kind of Moorish habit, follow them up and down the streets, and pay them extraordinary respect.

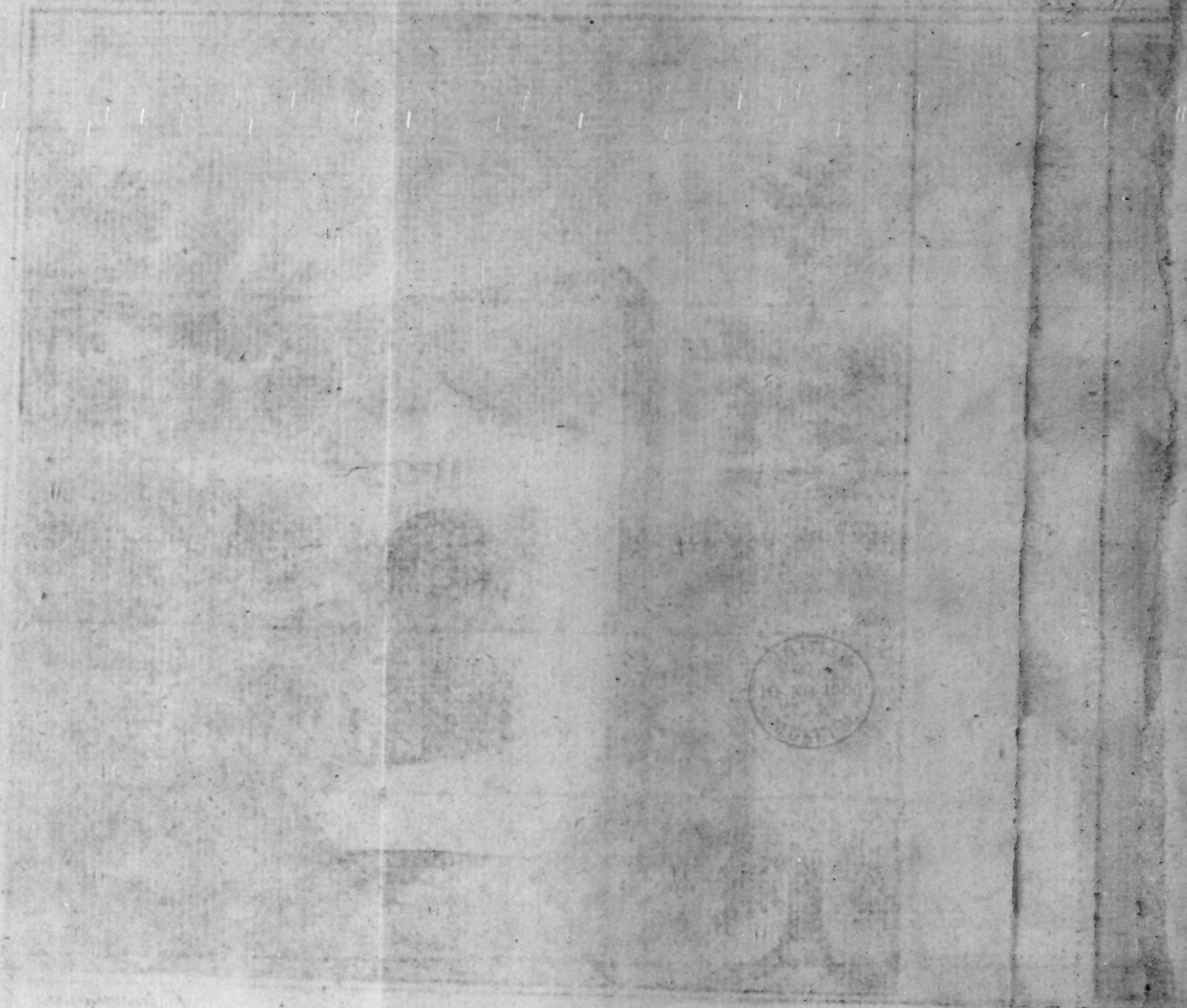
L E T T E R XXIII.

AFTER the tedious preamble of three long letters, it is high time to bring you to the palace of the Alhambra.

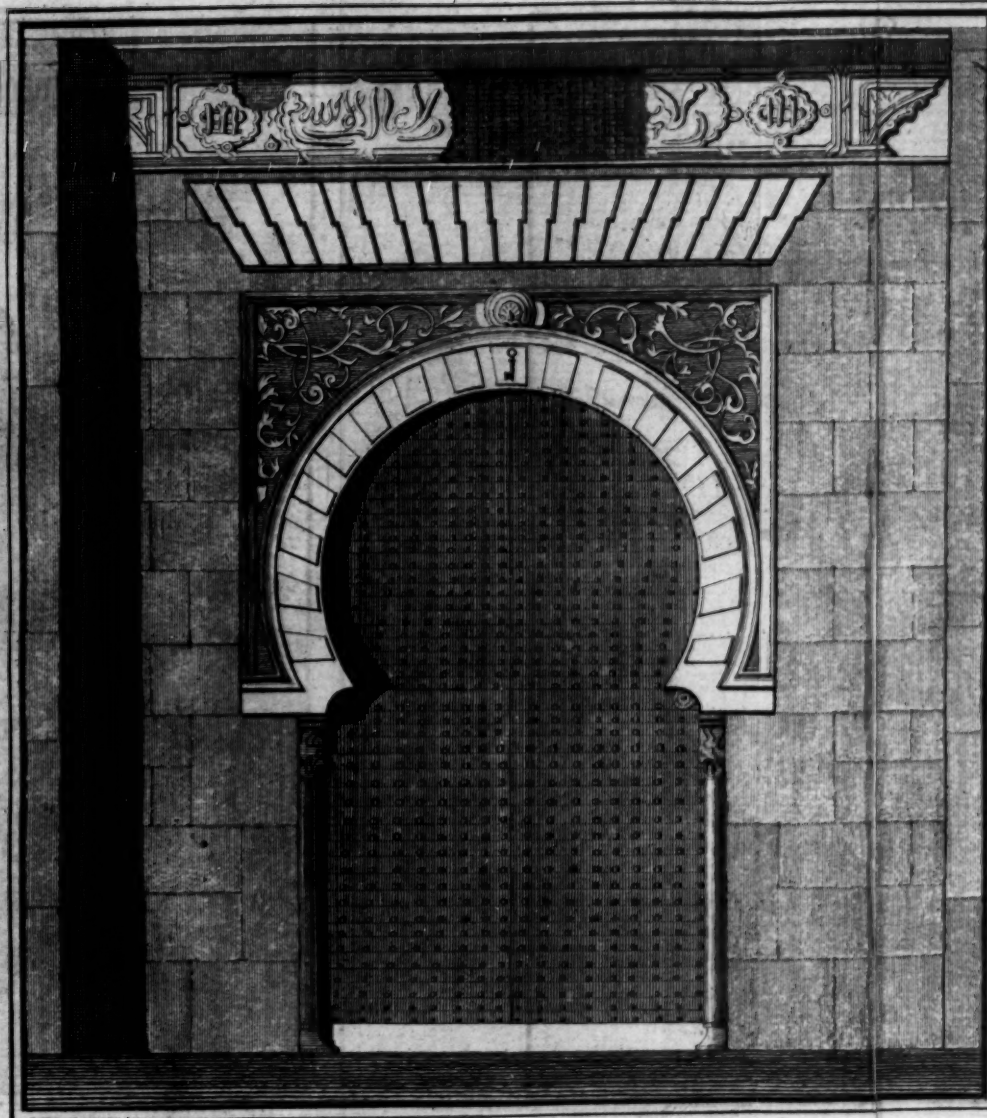
This ancient fortress, and residence of the Mahometan monarchs of Granada, derives its name from the red colour of the materials that it was originally built with; Alhambra signifying a red house. Most of the sovereigns took a delight in adding new buildings to the old towers, now called *Torres de la campana*, or in embellishing what had been joined by their predecessors. The pleasantness of the situation, and purity of its air, induced the Emperor Charles the fifth to begin a magnificent edifice on the ruins of the offices of the old palace, and it

is thought, he intended to fix his chief abode here; but his volatile temper, continual wars, and frequent absences from Spain, made him give up all thoughts of Granada, long before he had finished the plan. It stands between the rivers, on a very high hill, that projects into the plain, and overlooks all the city; the road up to it is through a narrow street, called *Calle de los Gomeles*, from a great family among the Moors. This brings you through a massive gate, built by the Emperor, into the outward inclosure of the Alhambra. You then continue to ascend by a very steep avenue of elms, which soon encreases to a wood, intersected in many directions by wild, neglected walks, where streams of clear water, finding their passage obstructed by the rubbish of their old channels, spread over the whole road. A large fountain adorns the platform near the top of the hill. The water, diverted from its proper conduits, has been suffered to run at random for such a length of time, that it has destroyed most of the sculpture and embellishments, which were in a very good taste. Here you turn short to the left, and come under the walls of the inner inclosure. Its appearance is that of an old town, exhibiting a long range of high battlemented walls, interrupted at regular distances by large lofty square towers. These have one or two arched windows near the top, and a precipitate slope from the bottom into a dry ditch. The whole is built with round irregular pebbles, mixed with cement and gravel. Some parts

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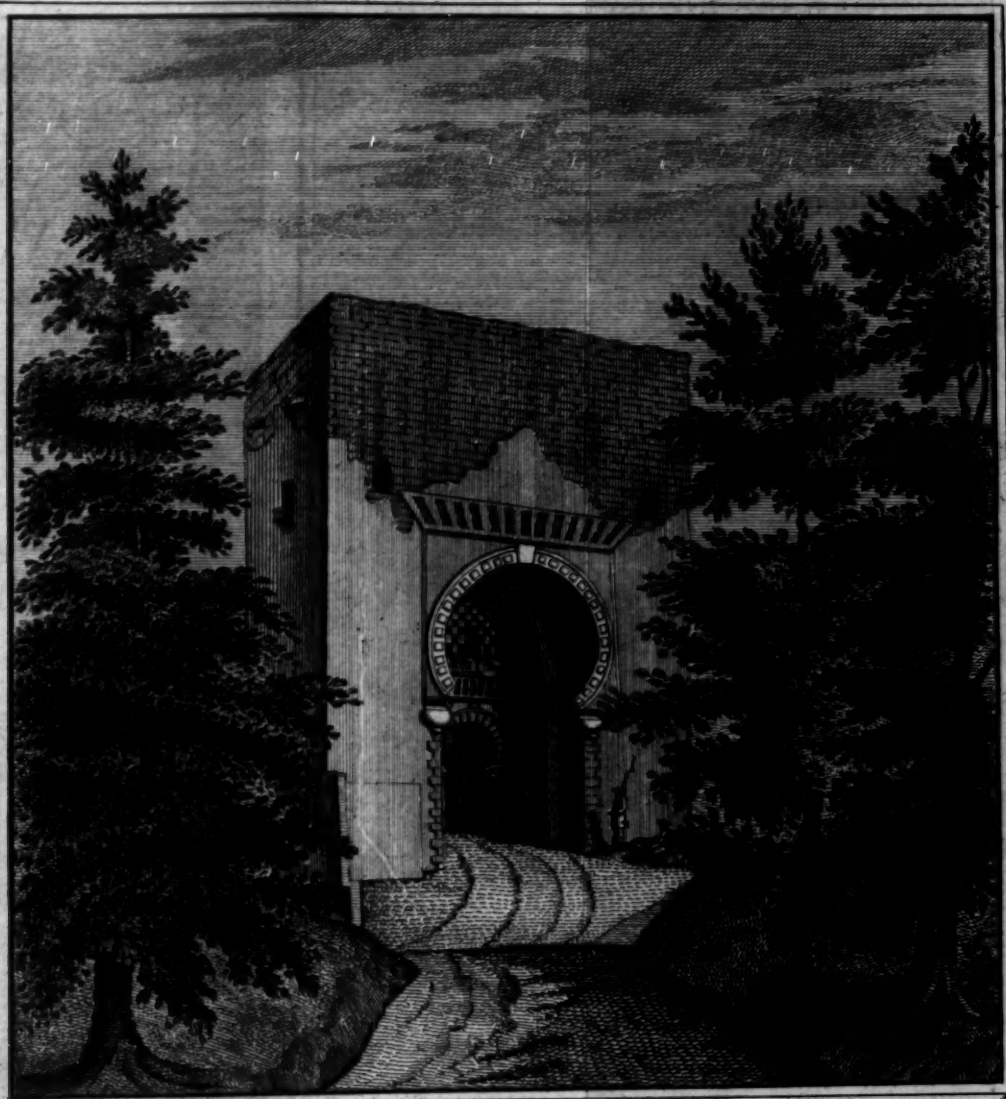


H.S. del 1775. PUERTA DE LOS SIETE SUELOS.

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Pies Castellanos.

HE ALHAMBRA.

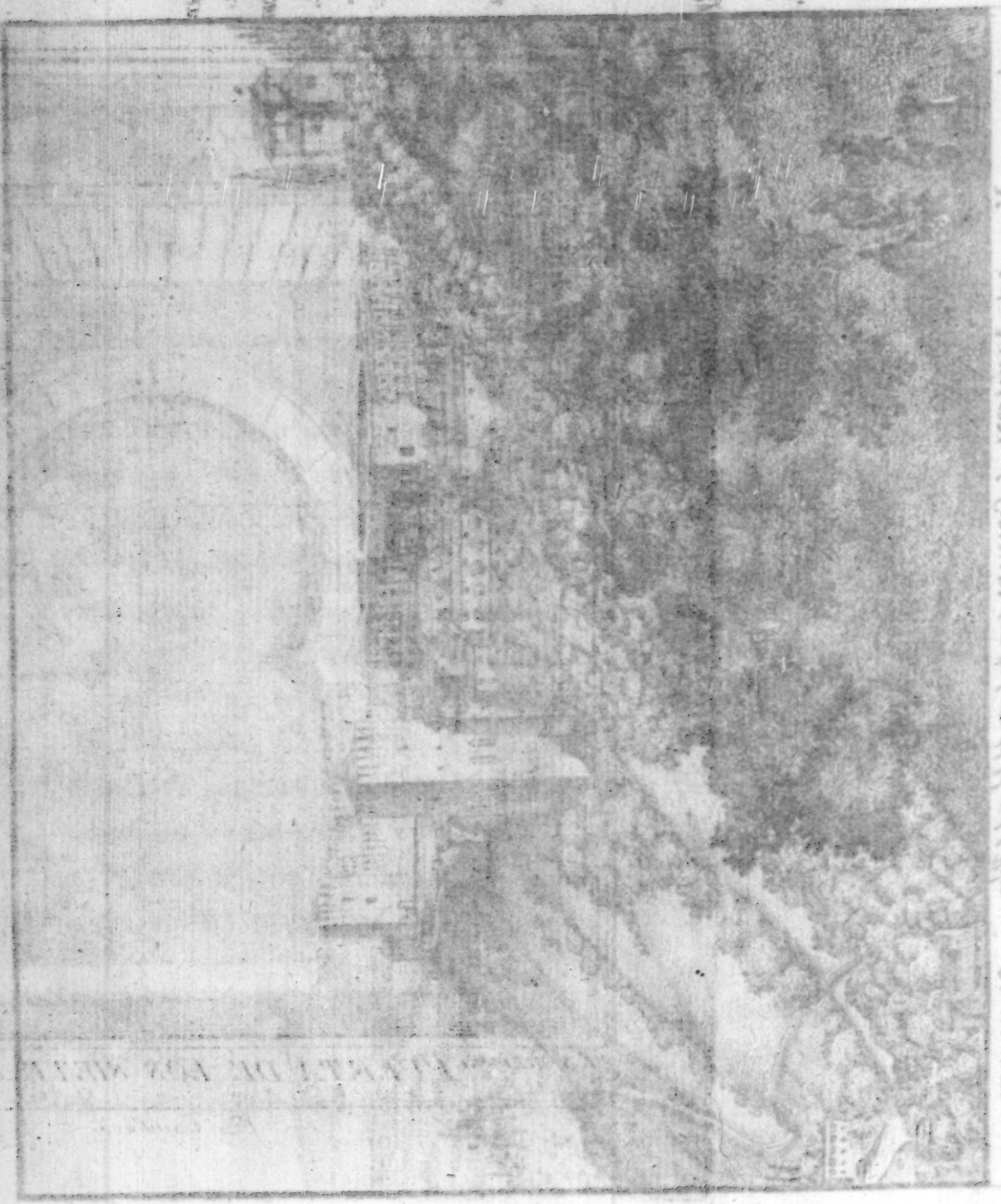


F. Giomignani sc.

PUERTA DEL JUICIO.

Plate X.

- 10 River Bridge
- of Granada.
- Part of the City
- of Cadiz and
- Cadiz.
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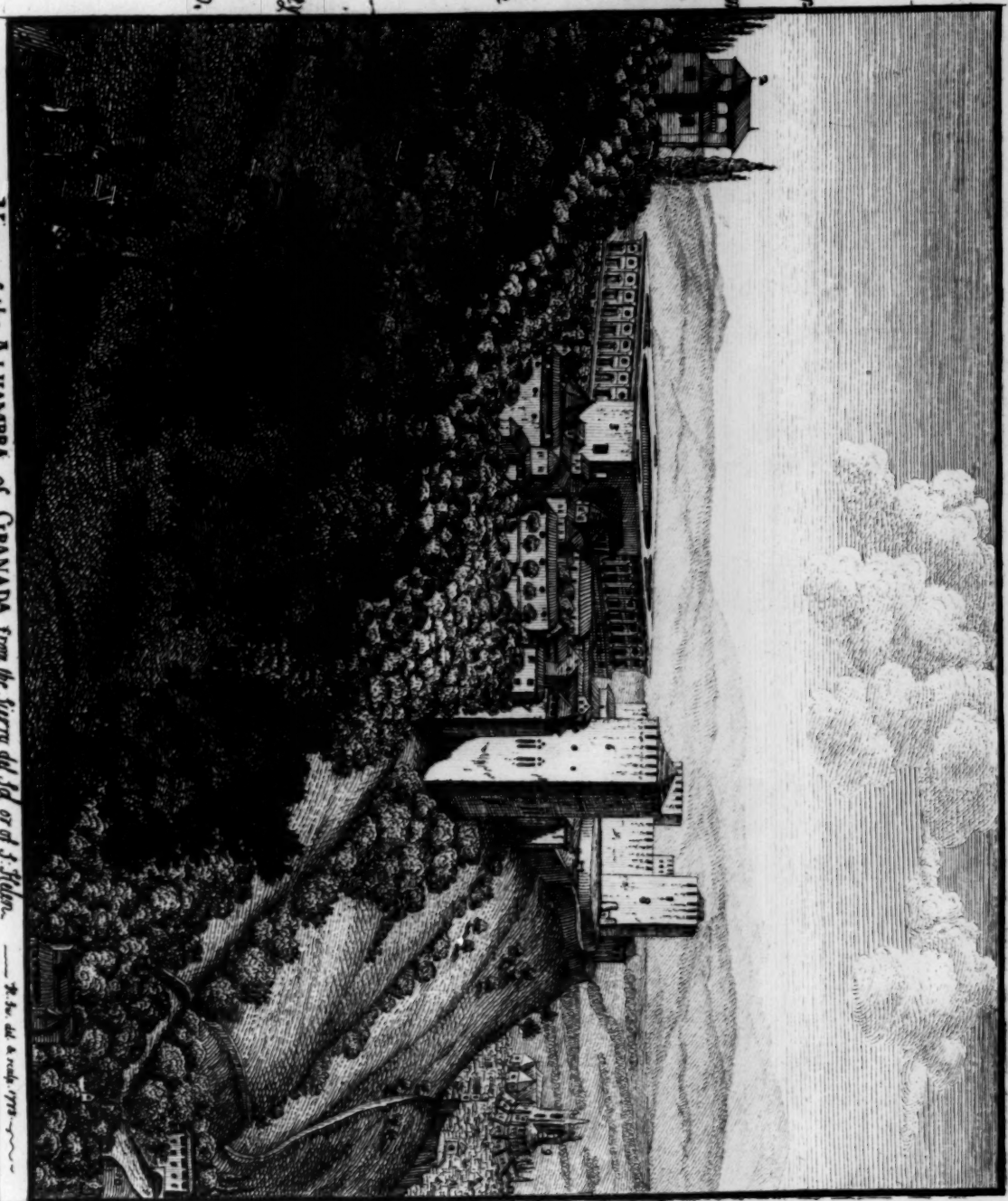
View of the ALHAMBRA of GRANADA from the top of the hill of St. Nicholas.

References.

1. Hill of S^t M^o-
lena.
2. Convent.
3. Palace of Char-
les the fifth.
4. Gallery of Com-
-munication.
5. Hall of the A-
-bencerrages.
6. Tower of Co-
-mares.
7. Mayor de la
Reyna Mora.
8. Torre de la
Campana.
9. Cathedral &
Part of the City
of Granada.
10. River Darro.



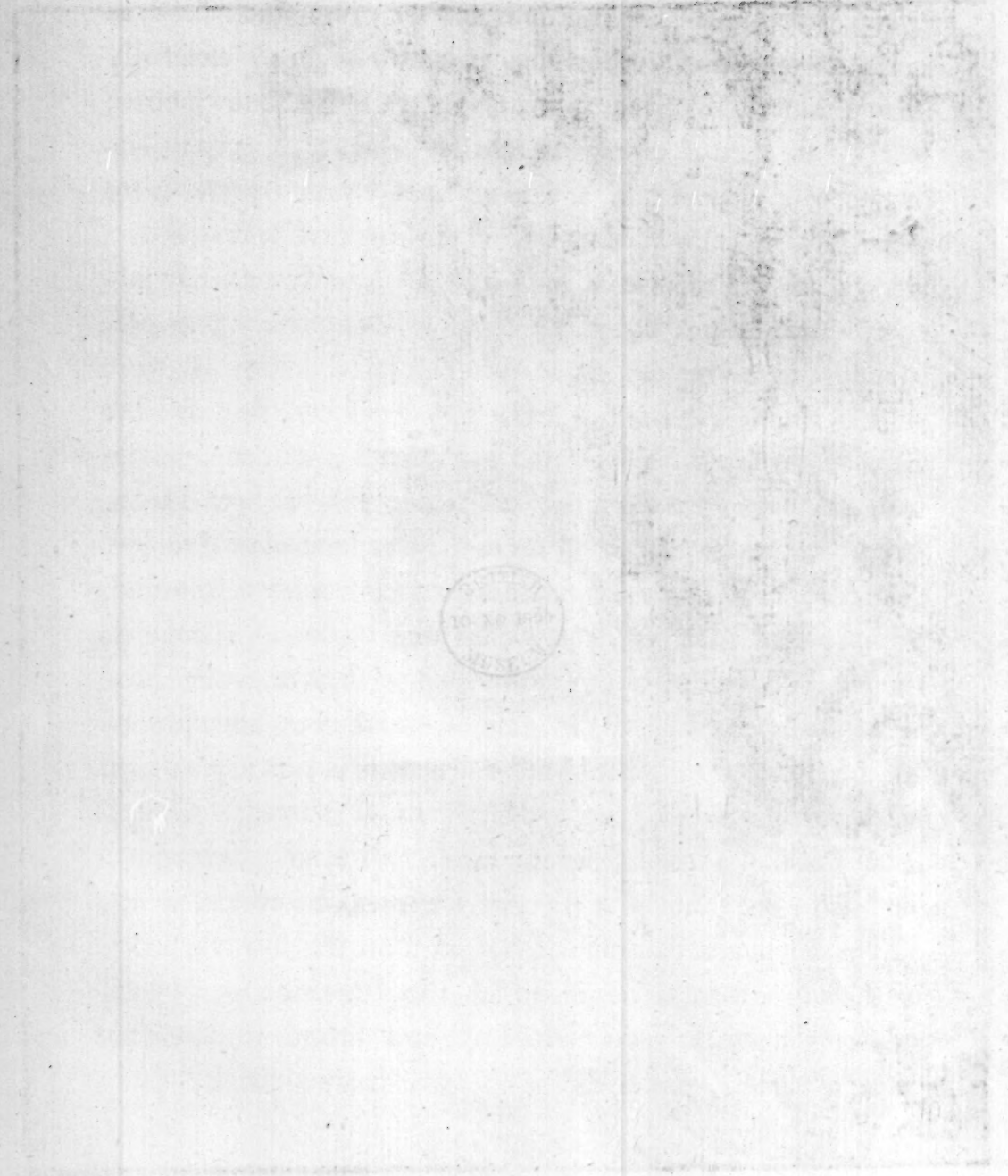
Plate. X.



View of the ALHAMBRA of GRANADA from the Sierra del Sid or of S. Helena.

— 18. 10. 1818 & 1819 —

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parts are covered and smoothed over with a thick coat of plaister ; in other places, mortar has been laid in between the stones, leaving as much of them uncovered as came to the level ; then the trowel has been carefully drawn round, forming about them triangles, half-moons, &c. Just before you, stands the present principal entrance into the castle, a square tower built by the king Jusaf Abuhagiagi, in 1348, as an inscription informs us : from its being the place where justice was summarily administered, it was styled *the Gate of Judgment*. You pass through it under several arches (each of which is more than a full semicircle, resting upon a small impost, the ends of the bow being brought towards each other in the form of a horseshoe.) On the key-stone of the outward arch, is sculptured the figure of an arm, the symbol of strength and dominion : on that of the next arch is a key embossed, the armorial ensign of the Andalusian Moors. Above it, the wall of this partition is covered with a beautiful blue and gold mosaic, in the middle of which they have placed an image of the Virgin Mary. As this is not a gate ever used for carriages, the passage winds through several turns, full of images, indulgences, and altars, before you get through, out into a narrow street, between a row of shabby barracks on the right, and on the left the castle wall, supposed to be built by the Phœnicians. I examined the work very narrowly, and found it consisted of a layer of cement one or two inches thick, upon which

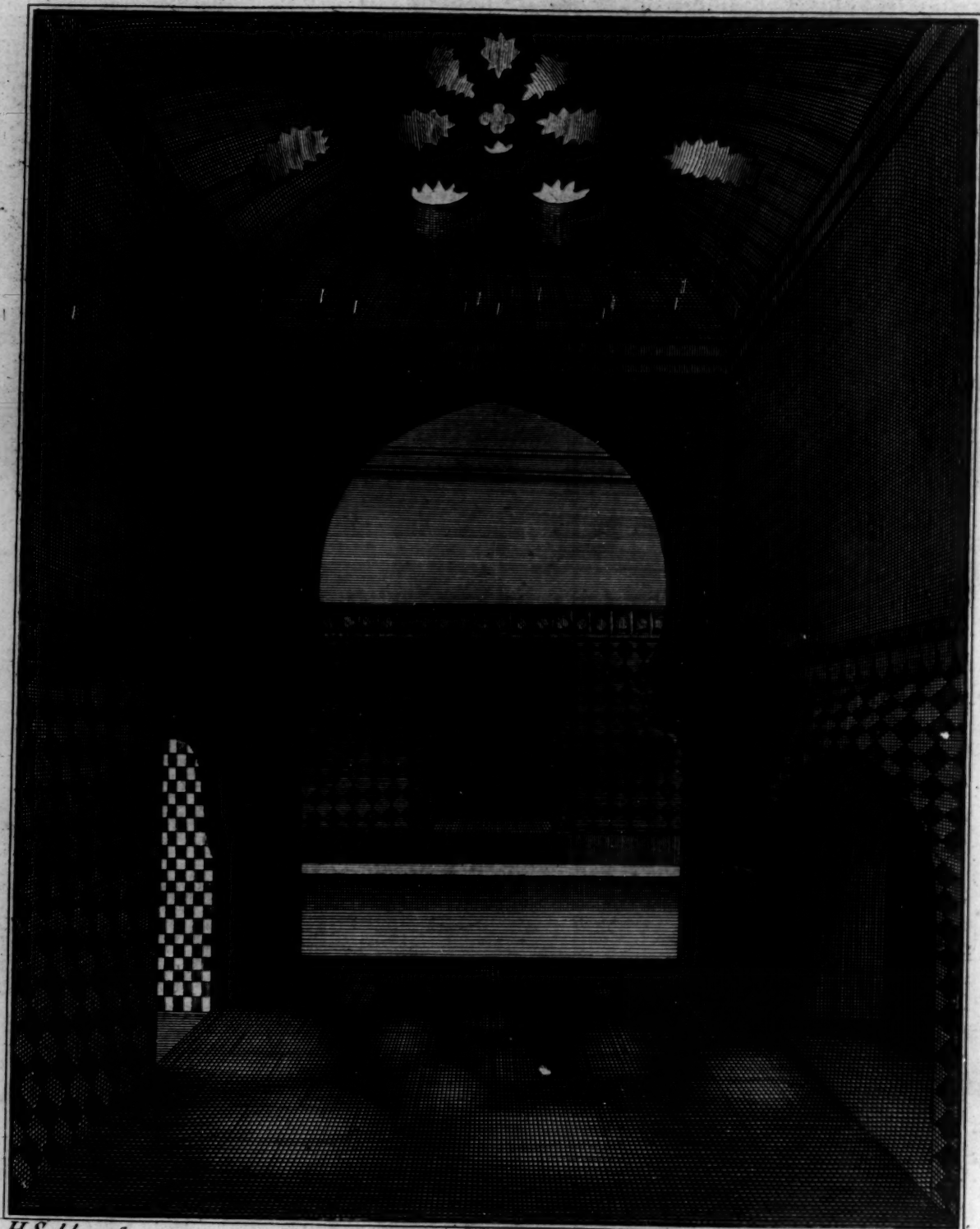
which is placed flatwise a stone of the same thickness, chisselled on the face into a kind of a chequered design. This is the regular method employed from top to bottom. This lane ends in the great square, or *Plaza de los Aljibes*, so named from the ancient cisterns, that undermine it from end to end, and are constantly fed by a supply of running water. The prospect from the parapet-wall is wonderfully grand, over the vale of Dauro, the Albaycin, and down the Vega. On the very brow of the hill, hanging over the city, stand the *towers of the bell*, a groupe of high square buildings, which now serve for prisons. Below them, on the south-side, on a slip of terrace, is the governor's garden, a very pleasant walk, full of fine orange and cypress trees, and myrtle hedges, but quite abandoned. The view it commands is incomparable. Two large vases enamelled with gold and azure foliages and characters are the only ornaments left: these were taken out of the vaults under the royal apartments. On the right hand of the Plaza de los Aljibes, is a solitary gateway, formerly the entrance into some of the outward quadrangles thrown down by Charles the fifth, to make room for his superb palace, which stands facing the *Torres de la campana*. This edifice is a perfect square of two hundred Spanish feet; it has two orders of pilasters, Doric and Ionic, upon a rustic base. The whole measures sixty-two feet from the top of the upper entablement to the ground. Three of the fronts

fronts are free from all other buildings; the fourth (that to the north) is joined and connected with the ancient palace of the Moorish kings. It was never finished, which is much to be regretted by all lovers of the fine arts, for there are few edifices more deserving of their admiration. The architect was Alonzo Verruguete, a native of Paredes de Navas, near Valladolid. In this work he has discovered a most transcendent genius, grandeur of style, and elegance and chastity of design. How different from all that has been done for a century past in this kingdom! The doors are designed in a great manner; the bass-reliefs, figures, festoons, medallions, &c. are of excellent invention and execution; the ornaments of the cornices, windows, and capitals, are delicate, and suitable to the general effect. On the pedestals of the columns, that support the entablement of the great door, are reliefs on dark marble, that for polish might pass for bronze at a little distance; the Doric door in the south side, called El Zanguenete, pleased me greatly, as there is something simply elegant in the taste, and new in the ornamental part; the pediment is filled with a scroll thrown with great ease, on which is inscribed *Plusoutre*, the motto of the Emperor, which he never failed introducing into every public work he undertook. You come, through an oblong vestibule, into the court which forms the center of the palace. It is an exact

exact circle, of one hundred and forty-four feet diameter, round which runs a Doric colonnade, or portico, of thirty-two columns, supporting an upper gallery of an equal number of pillars, of the Ionic order. They are all of them of one entire block of reddish marble. The portico is nineteen feet wide, and serves as a communication with the stair-case, and the intended apartments, which are disposed round the court in various forms and proportions. The roof of the gallery is crumbling away very fast, and many of the columns are much damaged. The apartments never had any other covering than the sky; and nothing but the matchless temperature of the climate could have saved this beautiful work, so many years, from total ruin. The magnificence, the unity of this whole pile, but, above all, the elegance of the circular court, quite transported me with pleasure, on the first view, and I have ever since found my admiration encrease in proportion to the number of my visits.

Adjoining (to the north) stands a huge heap of as ugly buildings as can well be seen, all huddled together, seemingly without the least intention of forming *one* habitation out of them. The walls are entirely unornamented, all gravel and pebbles, daubed over with plaister by a very coarse hand; yet this is the palace of the Moorish kings of Granada, indisputably the most curious place within, that exists in Spain, perhaps in Europe. In
many

1944-1945



H.S. del. 1775.

F. Giomignani sc.

GREAT BATH OF THE ALAMBRA.

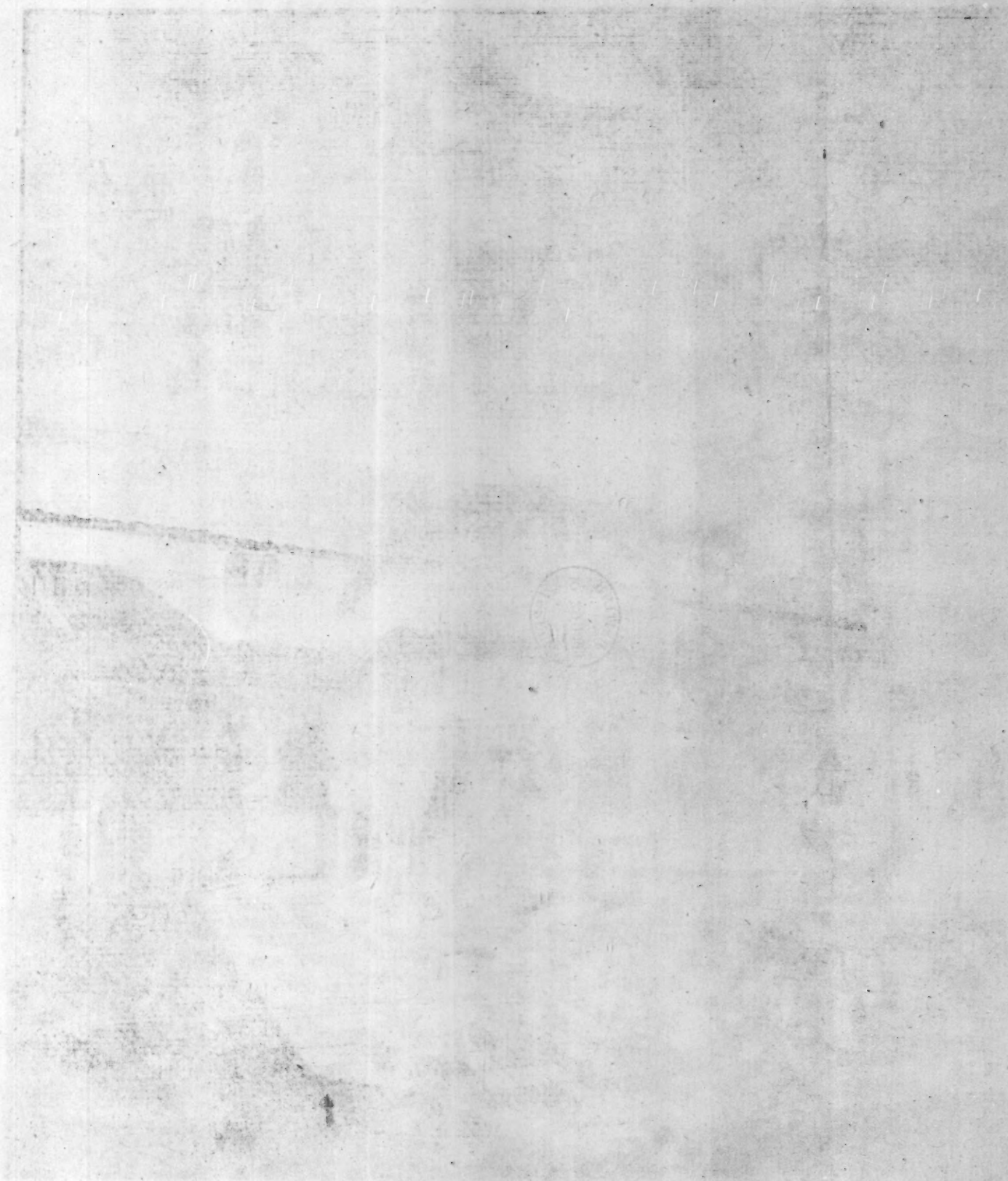
many countries, you may see excellent modern as well as ancient architecture, both entire and in ruins; but nothing to be met with any where else can convey an idea of this edifice, except you take it from the decorations of an opera, or the tales of the Genii. I therefore look upon it to stand alone in its kind, and consequently think no excuse necessary, previous to my entering upon the dry detail I intend giving you of it.

Passing round the corner of the Emperor's palace, you are admitted at a plain unornamented door in a corner. On my first visit, I confess, I was struck with amazement, as I stepped over the threshold, to find myself on a sudden transported into a species of fairy-land. The first place you come to, is the court called the *communa*, or *del mesucar*, that is the *common baths*: An oblong square, with a deep basin of clear water in the middle; two flights of marble steps leading down to the bottom; on each side a parterre of flowers, and a row of orange-trees. Round the court runs a peristyle paved with marble; the arches bear upon very slight pillars, in proportions and style different from all the regular orders of architecture. The ceilings and walls are incrustated with fret-work in stucco, so minute and intricate, that the most patient draughtsman would find it difficult to follow it, unless he made himself master of the general plan. This would facilitate the operation exceedingly, for all this work is frequently and regularly repeated at certain distances,

tances, and has been executed by means of square moulds applied successively, and the parts joined together with the utmost nicety. In every division are Arabic sentences of different lengths, most of them expressive of the following meanings, "There is no conqueror but God;" or, "Obedience and honour to our Lord Abouabdallah." The ceilings are gilt or painted, and time has caused no diminution in the freshness of their colours, though constantly exposed to the air. The lower part of the walls is mosaic, disposed in fantastic knots and festoons. A work so new to me, so exquisitely finished, and so different from all I had ever seen, afforded me the most agreeable sensations, which, I assure you, redoubled every step I took in this magic ground. The porches at the ends are more like grotto-work, than any thing else I can compare them to. That on the right hand opens into an octagon vault, under the Emperor's palace, and forms a perfect whispering-gallery, meant to be a communication between the offices of both houses.

Opposite to the door of the communa through which you enter, is another, leading into the *Quarto de los leones*, or apartment of the lions, which is an oblong court, one hundred feet in length, and fifty in breadth, environed with a colonade seven feet broad on the sides, and ten at the end. Two porticos or cabinets, about fifteen feet square, project into the court at the two extremities. The square is paved with coloured tiles; the colonade

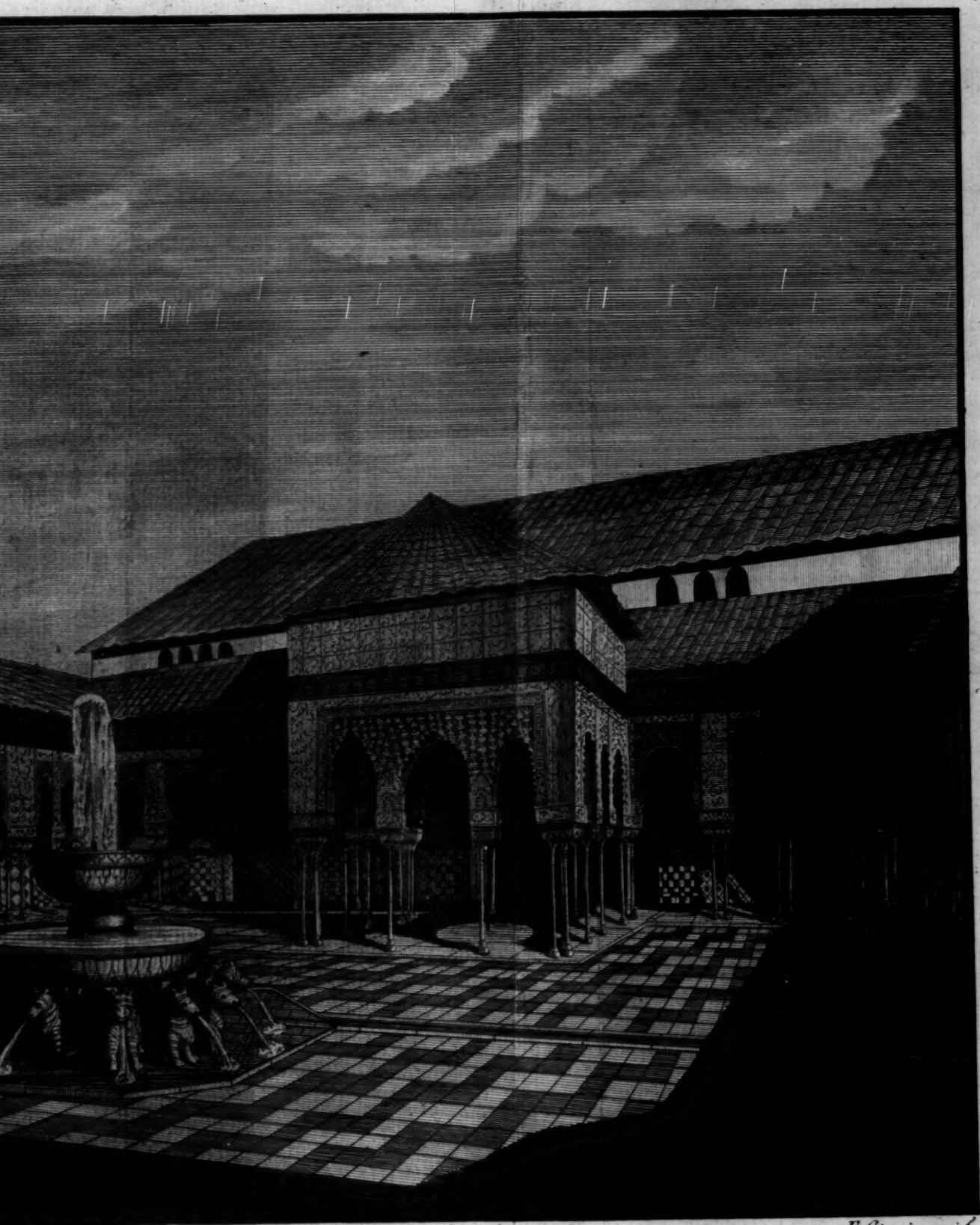
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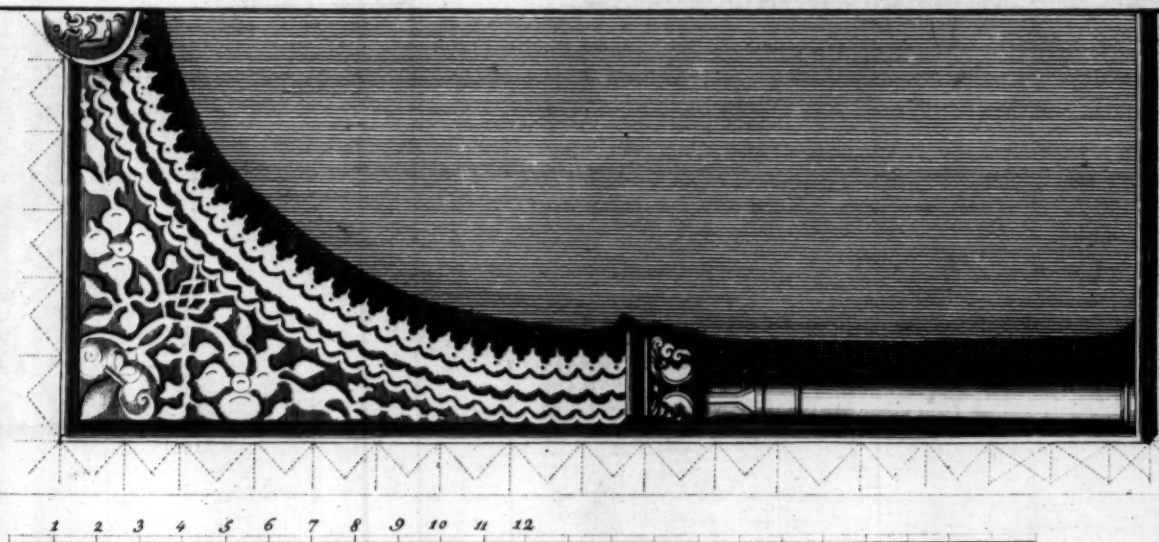
H.S. del. 1775.

COURT of the LIONS in the ALHAMBRA

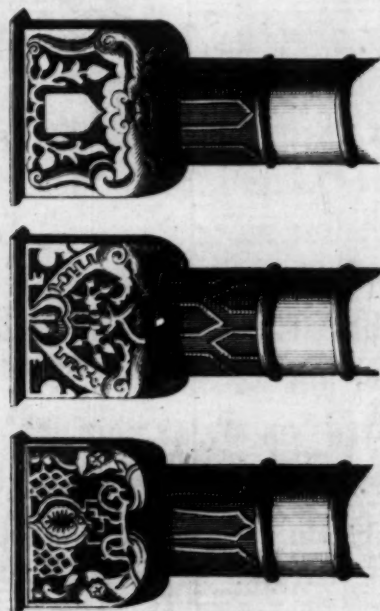
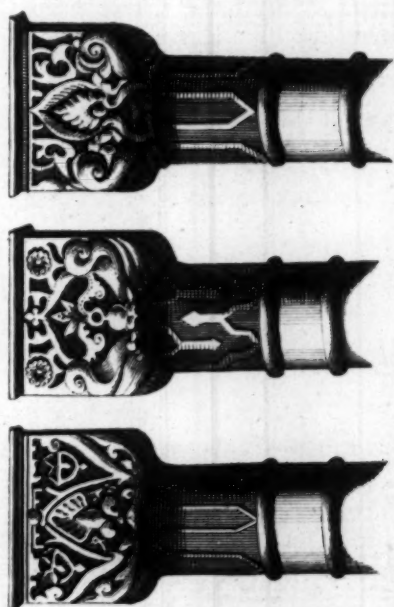


F. Giomignani sc.

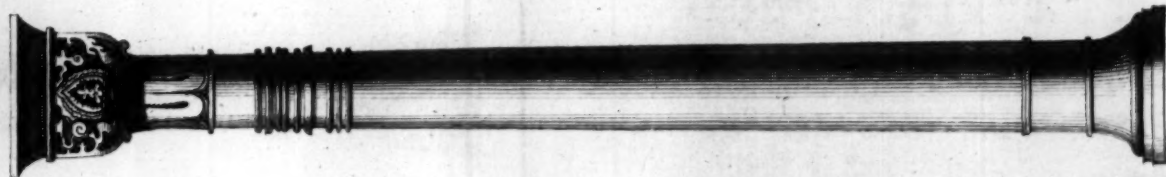
ALHAMBRA or MOORISH PALACE of GRANADA.



H. S. del 1773
Cyphoard in the Hall of the
Embassadors.



Six Capitals of Columns in the Court
of Lions in the Alambra of Granada.



P. Giomagnani sc.
Column of the Court
of Lions.

with white marble. The walls are covered five feet up from the ground with blue and yellow tiles, disposed chequerwise. Above and below is a border of small escutcheons, enamelled blue and gold, with an Arabic motto on a bend, signifying, "No conqueror but God." The columns that support the roof and gallery are of white marble, very slender, and fantastically adorned. They are nine feet high, including base and capital, and eight inches and an half diameter. They are very irregularly placed, sometimes singly, at others in groups of three, but more frequently two together. The width of the horse-shoe arches above them is four feet two inches for the large ones, and three for the smaller. The ceiling of the portico is finished in a much finer and more complicated manner, than that of the *communa*, and the stucco laid on the walls with inimitable delicacy; in the ceiling it is so artfully frosted and handled, as to exceed belief. The capitals are of various designs, though each design is repeated several times in the circumference of the court, but not the least attention has been paid to placing them regularly or opposite to each other. You will form a much clearer idea of their style, as well as dispositions, from the drawings, than from the most elaborate description I can pen. Not the smallest representation of animal life can be discovered amidst the varieties of foliages, grotesques, and strange ornaments. About each arch is a large square of arabesques, sur-

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rounded

rounded with a rim of characters, that are generally quotations from the Koran. Over the pillars is another square of delightful filligree work. Higher up is a wooden rim, or kind of cornice, as much enriched with carving as the stucco that covers the part underneath. Over this projects a roof of red tiles, the only thing that disfigures this beautiful square. This ugly covering is modern, put on by order of Mr. Wall, the late prime minister, who a few years ago gave the Alhambra a thorough repair. In Moorish times the building was covered with large painted and glazed tiles, of which some few are still to be seen. In the center of the court are twelve ill-made lions muzzled, their fore-parts smooth, their hind-parts rough, which bear upon their backs an enormous basin, out of which a lesser rises. While the pipes were kept in good order, a great volume of water was thrown up, that, falling down into the basins, passed through the beasts, and issued out of their mouths into a large reservoir, where it communicated by channels with the jet d'eau in the apartments. This fountain is of white marble, embellished with many festoons, and Arabic distichs, thus translated :

“ See’st thou not how the water flows copiously like
“ the Nile ?”

“ This resembles a sea washing over its shores, threat-
“ ening shipwreck to the mariner.”

“ This water runs abundantly, to give drink to the lions.”

“ Terrible

TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN. 181

“ Terrible as the lion is our king in the day of
“ battle.”

“ The Nile gives glory to the king, and the lofty
“ mountains proclaim it.”

“ This garden is fertile in delights ; God takes care
“ that no noxious animal shall approach it.”

“ The fair princess that walks in this garden, covered
“ with pearls, augments its beauty so much, that thou
“ may’st doubt whether it be a fountain that flows, or
“ the tears of her admirers”.

Passing along the colonade, and keeping on the south side, you come to a circular room used by the men as a place for drinking coffee and forbets in. A fountain in the middle refreshed the apartment in summer. The form of this hall, the elegance of its cupola, the chearful distribution of light from above, and the exquisite manner in which the stucco is designed, painted, and finished, exceed all my powers of description. Every thing in it inspires the most pleasing, voluptuous ideas : yet in this sweet retreat they pretend that Abouabdoulah assembled the Abencerrages, and caused their heads to be struck off into the fountain. Our guide, with a look expressive of implicit faith, pointed out to us the stains of their blood in the white marble slabs ; which is nothing more than the reddish marks of iron-water in the quarry,

“ This passage is very obscure in the Latin translation. I have endeavoured to make something of it, but it still remains a forced conceit.

OF

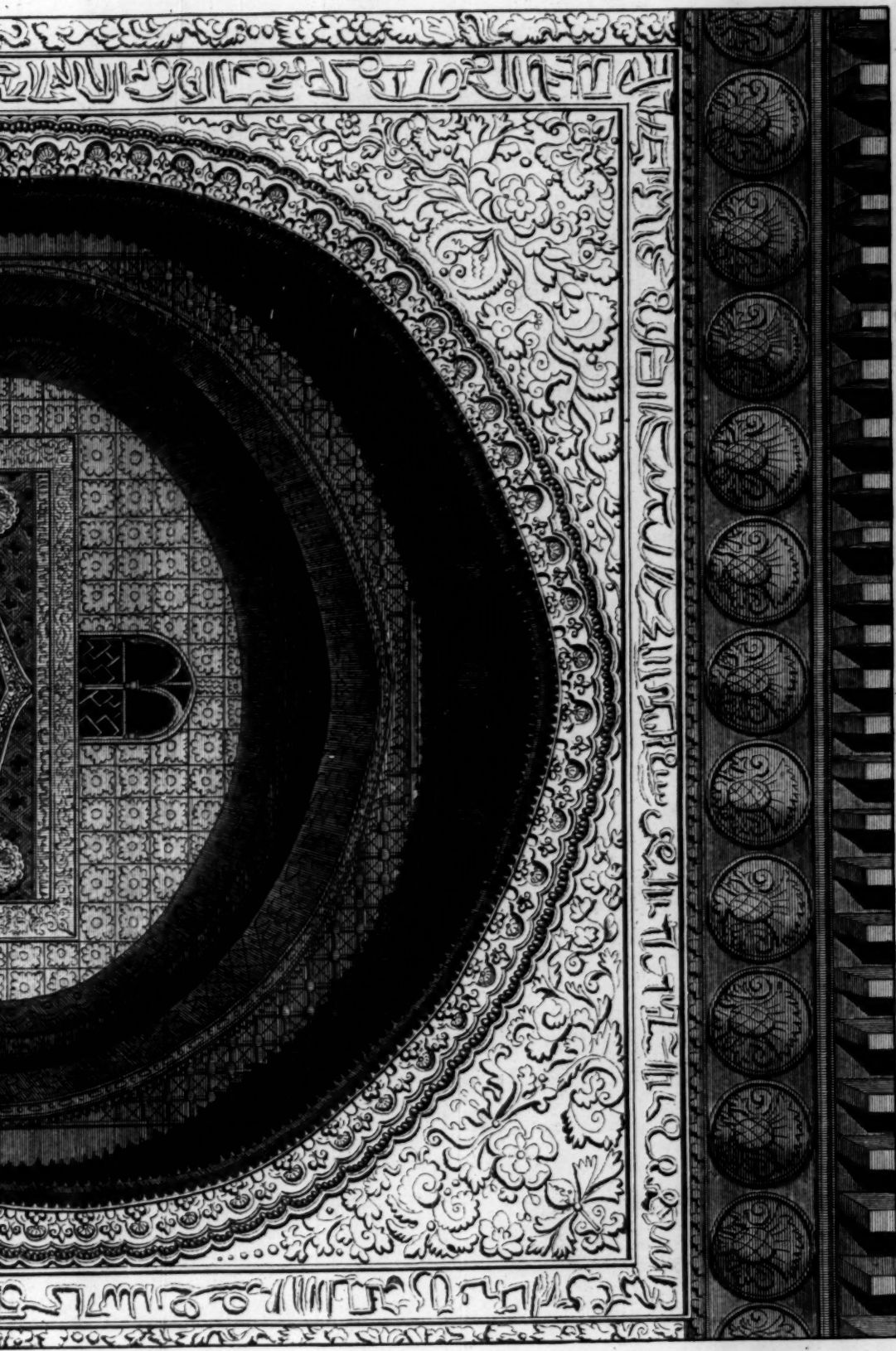
or perhaps the effect of being long exposed to the air. Continuing your walk round, you are next brought to a couple of rooms at the head of the court, which are supposed to have been tribunals, or audience-chambers. In the ceiling are three historical paintings, executed with much strength, but great stiffness in the figures and countenances. One of them seems to be a cavalcade; the other the entrance of some princess; and the third a divan. When these were painted, and what they are meant to represent, I could not make out; but our *Cicerone* naturally adapted them to the history of the Sultana and her four Christian knights. If they are representations of that doubtful story, they must have been painted in the Emperor's time, or a little before, for it cannot be supposed that Abouabdoulah would wish to perpetuate the memory of a transaction in which he bore so very weak and dishonourable a part. And besides, the anathema denounced by the Koran against all representations of living creatures, renders it next to impossible that these pieces should have existed previous to the conquest. The lions of the great fountain may be brought as an argument against my last reason; and indeed they shew that the Granadine princes, as well as some of the oriental caliphs, who put their own effigy on their coin, ventured now and then to place themselves above the letter of the law. Be this as it will, if the antiquity of these pictures can be proved to go as far back as the reign of Ferdinand,



H. S. del. Grav. 1773.

F. Giomignani sc.

ENTRANCE of the TORRE de las dos HERMANAS in the ALHAMBRA.



dinand, or at least the beginning of that of Charles, which I take to be no very difficult matter to make out, I should have much greater respect for the authority of Giles Peres than many think him entitled to. It can scarce be supposed that the events of the reign of Abou-abdoulah could be so totally forgotten so soon after, that a painter should dare to invent a trial and combat, at which many still living in Granada might have assisted as spectators.

Opposite to the *Sala de los Abencerrages* is the entrance into the *Torre de las dos hermanas*, or the tower of the two sisters, so named from two very beautiful pieces of marble laid as flags in the pavement. This gate exceeds all the rest in profusion of ornaments and in beauty of prospect, which it affords through a range of apartments, where a multitude of arches terminate in a large window open to the country. In a gleam of sunshine, the variety of tints and lights thrown upon this enfilade are uncommonly rich. I employed much time in making an exact drawing of it from the fountain, and hope it will help you to comprehend what I am labouring to explain by my narrative. The first hall is the concert-room, where the women sat; the musicians played above in four balconies. In the middle is a jet d'eau. The marble pavement I take to be equal to the finest existing, for the size of the flags, and evenness of the colour. The two sisters, which give name to the
room,

room, are slabs that measure fifteen feet by seven and a half, without flaw or stain. The walls, up to a certain height, are mosaic, and above are divided into very neat compartments of stucco, all of one design, which is also followed in many of the adjacent halls and galleries. The ceiling is a fretted cove. To preserve this vaulted roof, as well as some of the other principal cupolas, the outward walls of the towers are raised ten feet above the top of the dome, and support another roof over all, by which means no damage can ever be caused by wet weather, or excessive heat and cold. From this hall you pass round the little myrtle-garden of Lindaraxa, into an additional building made to the east end by Charles V. The rooms are small and low: his dear motto, *Plus outre*, appears on every beam. This leads to a little tower, projecting from the line of the north wall, called *El tocador*, or the dressing-room of the sultana. It is a small square cabinet, in the middle of an open gallery, from which it receives light by a door and three windows. The look-out charming. In one corner is a large marble flag, drilled full of holes, through which the smoke of perfumes ascended from furnaces below; and here, it is presumed, the Moorish queen was wont to sit to fumigate and sweeten her person. The emperor caused this little pretty room to be painted with representations of his wars, and a great variety of grotesques, which appear to be copies, or at least imitations, of those in
the

the loggie of the Vatican. They have been shamefully abused by idle scribblers; what remains shews them to be the work of able artists. From hence you go through a long passage to the hall of ambassadors, which is magnificently decorated with innumerable varieties of mosaics, and the mottos of all the kings of Granada. This long narrow antichamber opens into the *communa* on the left hand, and on the right into the great audience-hall in the tower of *Comares*, a noble apartment, thirty-six feet square, thirty-six high up to the cornice, and eighteen from thence to the center of the cupola. The walls on three sides are fifteen feet thick, on the other nine; the lower range of windows thirteen feet high. The whole hall is inlaid with mosaic of many colours, disposed in intricate knots, stars, and other figures. In every part are repeated certain Arabic sentences, the principal of which are the following:

“The counsel of God and a speedy increase, and give joy to true believers.”

“Praise to God, and to his vicegerent Nazar, who gave this empire, and to our king Abouabdoulah, to whom be peace, elevation, and glory.”

N. B. Nazar is an appellation of eminence, and supposed to mean the famous Emirmoumelin Jacob Almanzar.

“There is no God but God.”

“Valour, success, and duration to our king Abul-

B b

“haghagh,

“haghagh, king of the Moors; God guide his state and
“elevate his power!”

“Praise be to God, for I enliven this dwelling of
“princes with my beauty, and with my crown. I strike
“firm root; I have fountains of purest water, and hand-
“some apartments; my inhabitants are lords of mighty
“puissance. May God, who guides his people, protect
“me, for I attend to the sayings of the holy! I am thus
“adorned by the hand and liberality of Abulhaghagh,
“who is a bright moon that casts forth his light over
“the face of heaven.”

These inscriptions, and many others dispersed over the palace, prove that there is very little of it remaining that is not the work of Abulhaghagh, or of Abouabdoulah.

Having thus completed the tour of the upper apartments, which are upon a level with the offices of the new palace, you descend to the lower floor, which consisted of bedchambers and summer-rooms: the backstairs and passages, that facilitated the intercourse between them, are without number. The most remarkable room below is the king's bedchamber, which communicated, by means of a gallery, with the upper story. The beds were placed in two alcoves, upon a raised pavement of blue and white tiles; but as it has been repaired by Philip V. who passed some time here, I cannot say how it may have been in former times. A fountain played in the middle, to refresh the apartment in hot weather.

weather. Behind the alcoves are small doors, that conduct you to the royal baths. These consist in one small closet with marble cisterns for washing children, two rooms for grown-up persons, and vaults for boilers and furnaces, that supplied the baths with water, and the stoves with vapours. The troughs are formed of large slabs of white marble; the walls are beautified with party-coloured earthen ware; light is admitted by holes in the coved cieling.

Hard by is a whispering-gallery, and a kind of labyrinth, said to have been made for the diversion of the women and children.

One of the passages of communication is fenced off with a strong iron grate, and called the prison of the sultana; but it seems more probable that it was put up to prevent any body from climbing up into the women's quarter.

Under the council-room is a long slip, called the king's study; and adjoining to it are several vaults, said to be the place of burial of the royal family. In the year 1574, four sepulchres were opened, but, as they contained nothing but bones and ashes, were immediately closed again.

I shall finish this description of the Alhambra, by observing how admirably every thing was planned and calculated for rendering this palace the most voluptuous of all retirements; what plentiful supplies of water were

brought to refresh it in the hot months of summer; what a free circulation of air was contrived, by the judicious disposition of doors and windows; what shady gardens of aromatic trees; what noble views over the beautiful hills and fertile plains! No wonder the Moors regretted Granada; no wonder they still offer up prayers to God every Friday for the recovery of this city, which they esteem a terrestrial paradise.

L E T T E R XXIV.

Granada, December 30, 1775.

AFTER the Alhambra, I am afraid the rest of the city will go down but poorly: indeed there is little worth seeing here.

The Alameda, along the banks of the Xenil, is as pleasant a walk as any in Spain, but the river has seldom water enough to enliven the prospect with a reflected landscape. The hill rises boldly, to back the avenue, with orange-groves, cypress-alleys, and clusters of houses, grouped upon the waving line of its sides and summit. This, and another drive beyond the river, are the chief places of resort for people on foot or in coaches; and the beauty

beauty of Granada is no where more striking than from these points of view. The more distant parts of the hill are rather bare, and hollowed out into caverns, inhabited by a tawny, ill-favoured tribe, who have either excavated the mountain, or found it ready scooped out to their hands by the ancient possessors of the country. In winter, these grottos are so warm, that they sleep in them without cloaths or covering to the bed; and in summer they are so cool as to be dangerous for such persons as come suddenly out of the heat of the external atmosphere.

The environs of the town are charming even now. Every body tells us, that in summer Granada is a delicious abode, never too cold nor too hot, refreshed by numberless streams, and perfumed by all the sweets wafted by the breeze from the gardens that lie scattered over the declivities of the neighbouring hills. Nothing can be more agreeable, in the mild sunshiny afternoons which we enjoy here, though at Christmas, than the walks along the heights of the Alhambra. There is always a great concourse of people sitting on the grass, basking in the sun, and diverting themselves, as if it were a fair. Venders of cakes, toys, and liquors, call their wares through the crowd. The women come to shew themselves in their holiday finery, drest out in black silk petticoats and veils. In that habit every woman has something uncommonly alluring. Here indeed the sex is really

really handsome in any dress; their complexions are fairer, their skins clearer, and their cheeks glow with a brighter tinge than any faces we have met with in our journey down the coast. The distance of Granada from the sea-ports has probably preserved it from that general infection of the odious disease, which rages with such virulence in all the trading towns. The surprizing purity of its air must also greatly contribute towards the freshness of their looks. In many houses, a current of water passes in an uncovered channel through bedchambers where people sleep, winter and summer, without its having the least bad effect upon their health. Fruit and butchers meat remain in the Alhambra an unusual length of time without taint or putrefaction.

The walls and gates of the town, very few parts excepted, are demolished or built up, and the city is open on all sides. Most of the streets are narrow and dirty. To the lanes and alleys the common people retire to perform the most filthy of nature's functions; but they do it with much decency, having by long practice acquired great expertness in casting their cloak like a net, so as to fall exactly round at a proper distance from the body. Though it is common enough to find them squatted down in the streets, you never see any body make water publicly, for when pressed, they always retire behind a door, into an entry, or to some secret corner.

The Rambla is a very broad, long street, leading to
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the great walk: a lofty church, and some public buildings, give this street an air of grandeur not common in a Spanish city. Most of the small houses are Moorish built, or coarse imitations of that manner, the modern masons decorating their walls with uncouth copies of Saracenic mosaics. I believe there is scarce a house in Granada that has not over its door, in large red characters, the words, *Ave Maria purissima sin pecado concebida*; which is the *cri de guerre* of the Franciscan friars, who are the heads of the party that maintain the conception of the Virgin Mary to have been performed without her participating of the stain of original sin. This is a favourite tenet in Spain, strengthened and confirmed by the institution of the new order of knighthood of Carlos Tercero, by the vows of the ancient military orders, and by the oath administered to all candidates for degrees. At their reception they swear to defend, by word and deed, the doctrine of the immaculate conception. The Dominicans are the grand antagonists of the Conceptionists.

The market-place is spacious, but its buildings are horribly ugly. They are Moorish, and from top to bottom seem to be nothing but rows of large windows, divided by narrow brick pilasters. The shambles are a building apart, and clean enough. All meat bought in them must be weighed before a sitting committee of magistrates, before the buyer is suffered to carry home his purchase. One of our servants was yesterday hurried to jail, through ignorance
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of this regulation. An alguazil, coming up behind him, seized on his catering basket: this abrupt mode of proceeding was repulsed by a violent blow on the chaps with a shoulder of mutton, which brought the Spaniard to the ground. Our hero was marching off triumphant, when the pride of victory getting the better of his prudence, he suffered himself to be surprized by a detachment of alguazils, who lodged him in prison, till our banker waited upon the magistrates, and procured his discharge.

The outfides of the churches are painted in a theatrical taste, and their infides set off with a profusion of marbles, brought from the neighbouring mountains: the dark green, from the Sierra Nevada, is the most valuable. Tables of an extraordinary size have been lately cut of that marble, for the infant Don Lewis; but as the roads have been since quite destroyed by the torrents, the future carriage of such large blocks from the mountain will be attended with great expence and trouble. There are also many handsome brown marbles and alabasters, diversified with an infinite number of shades and tints. One whole street of artificers is employed in making little boxes, bracelets, necklaces, and other knick-knacks, of such materials, which they retail cheap enough. It is usual in gentlemen's houses to frame fine specimens of marble, and hang them up in the apartments by way of ornament.

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The cathedral, which, in point of architecture, stands very high in the opinion of the Granadines, is an assemblage of three churches. The first is a clumsy parish-church; the second, a large chapel, erected by Ferdinand V. at that unfortunate æra of the arts, when all the lightness and beautiful caprice of the Saracenic taste was laid aside, to make room for an unwieldy, preposterous mode of building, and a few years before the magnificence, elegance, and purity of Grecian architecture came again to be understood, relished, and copied. Both within and without, this chapel is incumbered with the weight of its own ill-proportioned ornaments. Ferdinand and Isabella repose before the altar, under a large marble monument full of figures and grotesques, in a pretty good style; which proves what a surprizing revolution the arts had undergone since the time of building the chapel. The two catholic monarchs lie by the side of each other; and adjoining, on a similar tomb, are stretched out the effigies of Philip the Fair, of Austria, their son-in-law, and of Joan their daughter, his wife. Over the great door is the emblem of the united monarchies, a bundle of arrows tied together, and clutched in the talons of a single-headed eagle.

From the chapel you pass into the main church, begun in the reign of Charles V. but not yet quite finished. It has the advantage of receiving abundance of light in every part; but the architect, who has essayed every

order of architecture both on the outside and inside of the church, has combined and disposed them in so heavy and confused a manner, that they produce none of that grand effect which results from the well-proportioned parts of one *whole*, when placed in perfect harmony with each other; such as fills the eye with one great object, and affords the senses a repose and satisfaction, undisturbed by the irregular predominance of any of the component members. Here they have carried the extravagance of fancy to such a pitch, that at one altar they have turned a set of twisted columns of beautiful marble topsy-turvy, and placed the smaller end on the base: the uncouthness of the appearance corresponds with the absurdity of the idea. The high altar is insulated, after the Roman fashion, under a very lofty dome, which would be entitled to the admiration of connoisseurs, had they taken less pains to load the arches, and the angles of the cupola, with statues, pictures, and festoons. The area round its basis, with the fine iron railing, and marble pavement, makes a great shew. I observed no very good paintings over any of the altars; but read an order, hung up in one of the iles, which thunders out the pain of the greater excommunication against all such as walk here for their pleasure, or converse with women in any of the chapels. Lest this anathema should not restrain the idle and the amorous, the spiritual court has added to it a fine of four ducats for each offence.

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The church of St. John of God is richly ornamented, and so are many others in Granada; but I saw none that did much credit to their architects, few of whom seem to have comprehended or admired the principles upon which Verruguete proceeded in building the new palace in the Alhambra.

The amphitheatre for bull-feasts is built with stone, and passes for one of the best in Spain.

The court of chancery sits in a new building, of a disagreeable style, heavy and disjointed. There are some medallions, and pillars of fine marble, in the main front. This court of judicature (of which species there is but another in the kingdom, established at Valladolid) comprehends within its jurisdiction more than half Spain, extending to the very neighbourhood of Madrid. Appeals lie to it from all the audiences and lower courts, and from it to the council of Castille only. Before the condemnation has been ratified here, no inferior judge is authorized to execute the sentence of death upon a criminal, under the pain of forfeiting five hundred maravedis, a sum so trifling, according to the present value of money, that it is not likely to deter a resolute officer of justice from punishing an offender without delay.

This tribunal draws a swarm of lawyers to the place, who absorb its riches, and are the only people that live with any degree of luxury or affluence. They soon consume the little wealth a farmer or tradesman may have

scraped together, by involving him in some law-suit or other, out of which he cannot extricate himself, as long as he has a farthing left to pay his attorney with. This, and many other kinds of oppression, have reduced Granada to a state of great poverty and despondency. Commerce is very feebly carried on, without encouragement or protection; the crops of the fertile Vega diminish annually; population gradually decreases. The city does not contain more than fifty thousand inhabitants, of which number about eighteen thousand only are useful working hands; the surplus is made up of lawyers, clergymen, children, and beggars. There are not less than a thousand sturdy, able-bodied rascals, that live by alms and conventual donations. We this morning saw a whole regiment of them drawing off in great order from the gate of the Carthusians, where they had been to receive a luncheon of bread and a platter of porridge apiece. Many of them afterwards adjourned to a shop, where several persons were playing publicly at dice.

The play-house differs in some respects from those we have seen in other parts of the kingdom: the men occupy all the ground-floor, and the women sit very high up, in a crazy kind of gallery. The fire of the flints and steels was so quick among the men, who were all preparing to smoke, or smoking, that it looked like soldiers going through their exercise. They gave us one day a strange farce, which it was impossible to make any thing of; it
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was all metamorphosis, a continual change of cloaths and character; at last out came a Capuchin friar, mounted on an ass, who, after many grimaces and buffooneries, coupled the other actors in the bands of holy wedlock.

L E T T E R XXV.

Granada, January 1, 1776.

YESTERDAY morning we took a stroll behind the Alhambra, passing below the *Puerta de 'los sieteuelos*, which was formerly the great entrance. This gate has been long blocked up, and the seven stories of vaults, from which it derived its name, filled with rubbish. A little farther on, the wall turns to the north-east, where the towers are very high. Part of the hill, which is a strong-cemented gravel, has been cut through, to make a dry ditch before them. A single arch crosses it, and conveys into the palace a copious supply of water. The path down this solitary, gloomy hollow, is rugged, and broken by the waste waters. About the middle is a very low postern, through which the court passed, when it chose to retire to the spring palace, which stands on a hill to the right.

Nearer

Nearer the Dauro, the water has burst all its conduits, and broken the gravel-bank into a tremendous precipice. Here we descended into the charming vale of Dauro, where we remarked the remnants of a Moorish bridge and tower, that appear to have supported a gallery of communication between the Alhambra and Albaycin. The view from the little green bank near the river, tho' a confined one, is unspeakably beautiful; at the bottom, where the cathedral and other steeples rise in a group, in the narrow reach, the little stream winds its way into the heart of the city. To the south, the fine verdant slopes are crowned with the turrets of the Alhambra, the hanging woods and gardens of the Generaliph, and the banks of the Sierra del Sol: on the north, are the Albaycin, innumerable gardens and orchards, and caverns full of inhabitants. We found our mules waiting for us here, and proceeded up the river, a very pleasant ride, between villas and convents, romantically situated, mills and water-falls, gardens, and plantations of fruit-trees, and thickets of filberts. We turned off to the southward, by the ruins of a small aqueduct, and came back over the mountain, on the top of which is a long ridge of stones, said to be the remains of the ancient Illiberia. It has more the appearance of a park-wall, or line of circumvallation. On the point that overlooks the Alhambra, stood formerly the fort of the Sun, or Saint Helena, under which run three canals, cut in the rock, one above the other,

other, which serve to convey water to the city, from the mountains, springs, and the river. Some large reservoirs, of Moorish, or perhaps more ancient origin, still subsist below, in perfect preservation. The water of the largest is very limpid, and it was never known to be dry. Historians relate a very singular proof of the abundance of its springs and supplies, though none can be discerned to boil up in the basin. When D. John of Austria marched a body of troops of five thousand men into the Alpuxaras mountains, against the Moriscos, at the hottest season of the year, he halted at this reservoir, to allow them time to quench their burning thirst. They drank and wasted as much of its water as they chose, yet there could not be perceived the least diminution in the original quantity contained in the pond. We stopped at the Generaliph, which was the residence of the sultan in April and May: it now belongs to the Conde de Campotejar, a Genoese nobleman, of the name of Grimaldi, descended in the female line from the royal family of Granada. The remains of the building are scarce worth looking at; for the noblest halls, and best finished work, are almost entirely demolished. The things yet existing, that claim attention, are the following: the double hedge of royal myrtle, above fifteen feet high; a row of cypresses of prodigious height and bulk—the servant pointed out a little recess behind them, where the sultana was accused of having committed adultery with Abencerrage;—great abundance

abundance of water running through all the little courts, but the grand jet d'eau are no longer kept in repair.

This day, being the anniversary of the surrender of Granada to Ferdinand and Isabella, was observed as a great festival, and day of rejoicing. Two or three feeble cracks from the cannon of the palace announced the feast to the populace, who flocked to the hill to pay their annual visit to the Moorish palace, which is this day open to all comers that can pay an acknowledgment to the governor's servant. He accounts to his master for these perquisites, which in some years amount to five hundred pezzettas. The present alcalde, or governor, resides in a small corner of the palace, where the emperor had made his chapel, and from a little window superintends the business, counting the heads that pass the threshold, and calculating the sum they may have taxed themselves at. He lives quite retired in his castle, and employs his many leisure hours, not in profound speculations or learned researches, but in emptying as many bottles of wine as the only arm he has left (for he has lost one) has steadiness to pour into his glass.

We entered the Alhambra with the crowd, and took a last farewell of that charming spot, where we have passed many delicious hours every day during our stay in Granada.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXVI.

Antequera, January 8, 1776.

THE second day of this new year, we set out from Granada, by the way of the Vega, in which we saw neither vines nor mulberry-trees, but all arable lands, which, near the city, let at about a *doblon* the fanega for the upper grounds, and in the low, well-watered parts, at a *doblon de à ocho*: some spots, that are proper for growing water-melons, run up to near six *doblons* a year. The fanega contains 31,700 square feet. Copiousness of water fertilizes these plains; but in rainy weather the roads are not passable. We came for dinner to the Soto de Roma, where we had already paid a visit. This was originally a hunting-seat for Charles V. since occasionally inhabited by his successors, and now granted for life to Lieutenant-general Richard Wall, late prime minister of Spain. It was quite in ruins when he came to live here: he has rebuilt part of it, cleaned it, and fitted up the house with elegant English furniture, in the style of one of our villas. The waters of four rivers meet here, and cause frequent inundations in winter. In summer the air is very un-

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wholesome,

wholesome, as the woods and ditches at that season abound with reptiles and vermin of all sorts. The forest round it contains about four thousand acres, and was reserved to the crown by Ferdinand the Catholic, when he divided the conquered country among his followers. Elm, poplar, and some oak, are the kind of trees that grow here in any quantity: they are cut down for repairs of the estate, and for the service of the royal arsenals. Mr. Wall has drained most of the woods, opened pleasant drives throughout, filled up the naked spots with plantations of useful timber trees, and thinned the old quarters with great judgment. This is almost the only place in Spain where pheasants thrive and multiply. In the beginning of spring, at the end of autumn, and during the winter months, this is a very agreeable rural habitation. Mr. Wall resides at the Soto from October to May; he then goes to Aranjuez, to attend the court for a month; after which he comes for the summer to the city of Granada. The king has given up to him all the revenues arising from these demesnes, and they are laid out in improving and beautifying the place, which Mr. Wall seems to understand perfectly well. He has every thing within himself: his own flocks, herds, and poultry, supply his table with meat provisions; the woods furnish it with game, the rivers with fish, and the kitchen-garden with every

every kind of vegetable. He is now in his eighty-third year, a man of a spare, neat make, active, and fond of exercise, of a fair complexion, and engaging countenance. He rises betimes, walks several hours a day, superintends his workmen, and, though he sees but little company, takes the greatest care to have every thing that is excellent in its kind served up at his table, where his behaviour is as easy and chearful as if he were only thirty years of age; not the smallest grain of ministerial reserve or affectation: he is free and communicative in his conversation, which he renders infinitely agreeable, by seasoning it with a variety of lively anecdotes of events and persons, which so long a life of public employment has furnished him with in great abundance. He is fond of talking, but acquits himself so well of the task, that the most loquacious must listen with patience and pleasure to his discourse, always heightened with mirth and good-humour. Courts and ministers he treats with the ridicule they, for the most part, deserve. A man who has passed so many years behind the curtain, must often reflect with contempt on the futile, absurd springs, that set in motion the grand political machine. It was with the greatest regret that we took leave of this most amiable statesman¹³,

¹³ Mr. Wall died in the beginning of 1778.

and pursued our journey to Loja, a large town on the Xenil, where we got in just in time to escape a most terrible storm of thunder and lightning, followed by a very heavy shower.

The next morning we saw all the mountains covered with snow. This storm soaked so deep into the fat, greasy soil, that it was not without very extraordinary efforts that our mules dragged us up the steep hills. The country between Loxa and this place is very hilly, except an extensive plain in this neighbourhood. We passed through some very fine woods of evergreen oak.

Antequera is a large straggling town, at the extremity of the plain, situated on several hillocks in a nook of the mountains.

On the 5th instant we hired a guide, and set out on horseback for Malaga, by the mountain road, which is a ride of about seven leagues, whereas it requires a couple of days to go round in a carriage. At a short league from Antequera we came to the foot of the Escaruela, an almost perpendicular rocky mountain, which we ascended by a very dangerous winding path. A fellow employed to keep the mule-track in repair, lives in a hut half way up, and sells brandy to travellers, who very often stand in great need of a cordial in this cold region of the air. Having gained the summit, we traversed a plain encircled by shaggy rocks,
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and then rode for some hours up and down a chain of high wild mountains. We then descended gradually to lower hills in cultivation. The vines are planted in rows, without props: the intervals are ploughed with oxen once a year, and the shoots pruned, which is almost all the dressing they require. These are the outskirts of the high-country vineyards, which produce the wine we drink in England by the name of Mountain.

We next got down to still lower land, where we found the almond-trees white with blossoms, and the hedges full of periwinkle, myrtle, marigold, oleander, cistus, honeysuckles, and many other flowers in full blow. We dined upon some cold meat, at the door of a venta, in the shade, for the sun was too powerful to sit in. An itinerant beggar made no difficulty, though it was Friday, of partaking of what we could spare from our repast; and in return for our kindness, rolled up a little minced tobacco in a piece of white paper, put it in his mouth, to try if the roll was properly constructed, and then presented it, ready lighted, to my friend S. T. as the most polite acknowledgment he could make.

After dinner, we jogged on over hills and dales, along very narrow paths, to the playa or plain of Malaga, at which city we arrived about four o'clock; and

and here met our miquelet, whom we had dispatched from Granada across the mountains with a letter. He had passed a severe night in the Sierra during the great storm, and was very near being imprisoned on his arrival, for being the bearer of a letter, which nobody is allowed to carry in Spain without leave from the post-office.

Malaga stands in the very corner of the plain, which is quite bare of wood, except the little that grows about the country-houses; the naked craggy mountains hang over the shore, and scarce leave room for the city. A Moorish castle, on the sharp point of a rock, commands every part of it. This situation renders Malaga most insufferably hot for eight months in the year. I was assured it was hardly possible to breathe in it in summer. The port and road seem safe enough, but will be much improved, when the new mole is carried out its full intended length into the sea. The solid manner in which it is built, by rolling large masses of rock into the water, to form a foundation for the wall of the pier, insures an almost eternal duration to the work, but at the same time makes it difficult to compute the number of years it will require to complete the undertaking. The sea has lost ground here, on account of the sand hurried down from the mountains by a neighbouring river, and accumulated annually along the shore.

shore. The Darfena, or docks where the Moors kept their gallies, are still remaining on the wharf, and now serve as warehouses. The streets are narrow: some squares are of a good size; but I do not recollect any very remarkable building, except the cathedral, which is indeed a stupendous pile, begun by Philip II. while married to Mary queen of England. Their united arms are still to be seen over the door. Two gentlemen, who said they had measured both churches, assured me this cathedral was as large as that of St. Paul's in London; but I am not convinced of the exactness of their measurement. The church of Malaga may be as wide, but I cannot think it near as long. No doubt a Protestant church appears larger within than a Roman Catholic one of the same dimensions, as the latter is incumbered with pictures, tapestry, altars, &c. The outside of this edifice is crowded with columns and embellishments. The two belfreys are already of a prodigious height, and an order or two more are yet to be added. Its interior appearance is pleasing and majestic.

The bishop's palace, in the same square, loaded with frivolous ornaments, is a large building, but looks insignificant so near the other. Its prelate enjoys an income of £.16,000 sterling.

General O'Connor, an old Irish officer, is governor of this.

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this province, and resides at Malaga. Brute beasts are his delight, and all his apartments are stuffed with bears, dogs, cats, and monkeys, to the great terror and annoyance of his visitors.

There are about fourteen foreign houses settled in trade at Malaga, who export five thousand butts of wine a year, of which the average price is from ten to thirty pounds a butt. Till within the last fifteen years, the quantity sent off was ten thousand butts; but, as no difference is made in England, in the duties, between old and new wine, the exporter grew careless in the quality of the wine sent, and the demand for it fell one half. The grapes, of which the choicest raisins are made, (a capital branch of commerce here) are half cut off the stem, and left four days to dry and candy in the sun. If pressed, they would make a rich white wine. The raisins dried upon the coast of Valencia are of an inferior quality, being dipped in a lye of lees of wine and ashes.

Yesterday I took a long walk into the Vega, and after enjoying the sight and perfumes of the orange-groves near every villa, was very much surprized to perceive in a farmer's yard a large bush of yellow roses in full beauty. This exceeded all idea I before had of the warmth of the climate, and earliness of its spring. In the evening we assisted at a very bad Italian

lian opera. In the middle of a song, all the actors and audience dropped upon their knees at the sound of a sacring bell, which let them know that the host was passing by. In a few minutes the singer resumed his amorous ditty.

We returned this afternoon from Malaga by the same road. The great variety of flowers blown since we had passed, made the mountain ride very agreeable, till we were overtaken by a storm of wind and rain that has not yet abated any of its violence.

Between Malaga and Gibraltar are twelve sugar-mills, where they have wrought time out of mind. The tradition is, that the sugar-cane was first brought into Spain by the Arabs.

Being now upon the point of taking leave of this eastern coast of Spain, which we have seldom lost sight of for these three months, it might be proper to introduce some general remarks upon the inhabitants and country; but I really have not presumption enough to attempt it; as I am conscious that the disposition of a people, their habitual character, customs, and manners, are not to be learnt without a long stay among them, and without becoming in some sort a messmate and familiar acquaintance of theirs. With all due respect for the Spanish nation, I don't wish to sacrifice the time such a study would require, as I apprehend I

should not be very amply rewarded for my pains. The peasantry seems very poor, and frugal in their diet: bread steeped in oil, and occasionally seasoned with vinegar, is the common food of the country-people from Barcelona to Malaga.

L E T T E R XXVII.

Puerto Santa Maria, January 13, 1776.

ON the 9th instant, on leaving Antequera, we were stopt by a river much swelled by the late rain, and lost a great many hours in seeking a road to the distant bridge. This was a real disaster to us, as, by retarding us half a day, it broke the chain of our stages, and laid us under the disagreeable necessity of stopping each ensuing night at a very bad inn, the good ones being placed at our dining distances. From Antequera to Pedrera the country is champaign and pleasant; some large lakes appearing between us and the mountains, and now and then some forest-land and olive-plantations, serving to enliven the prospect.

About Offuna, a large stinking town, we observed a
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great many crosses set up along the road-side, to mark the places, as we were informed, where murders had been committed : but I very much doubt that piece of intelligence. Before we came into Spain, we had been so much alarmed by all we had heard of the number of banditti in the kingdom, and the danger of passing from one province to another, that we thought we could not take too many precautions, and accordingly made ample provisions of arms and ammunition ; but having seldom heard any mention of robbers since we came into the country, our apprehensions have insensibly worn off, and we walk unarmed along the roads, about the villages, and in the bye-paths, without the least fear, or indeed reason to fear. In Catalonia and Valencia, where a regular police is established for apprehending thieves and preventing robberies, travellers go without arms ; further south, I have observed that no horseman, muleteer, or ass-driver, is without his gun or sabre slung at the pommel of his saddle. Whether this implies any real danger, or only an ancient custom, I cannot pretend to determine. Whatever risks a single passenger may be supposed to run in a cross road, and unfrequented waste, I am very certain that a caravan like ours need be under no apprehensions of attack.

At Offuna we found we were come to the country of

large white hats, few of the men wearing any other. The environs of the town are handsome; gentle eminences covered with young corn, and large olive-yards on the declivities.

On the 11th, a beautiful park-like country, where the swells are covered with forests of pines and cork-trees, or rows of olive-trees. The intermediate vallies in pasture, full of herds of brood mares feeding at large. That afternoon we came to a flat heath of rushes and palmetos, where we saw great flights of vultures, storks, and plover. We passed the night in a most infamous *posada* at Molares; the place so wretched as to afford no wine. No innkeeper is allowed to sell liquor, and the wine-houses are generally near the inn; but in this miserable hamlet there was no such thing.

On the 12th, boundless heaths and arable grounds; on the former innumerable herds of cattle; on the latter we saw no less than twenty-four ploughs at work in the same field, each drawn by a pair of oxen. We had now fairly entered the rich plains of Andalusia, where we found the roads cruelly spoiled by the wet weather, and our wheels almost buried in the stiff clay. At Alcanterilla is a bridge of two arches, over a deep runner, guarded by an old Moorish tower at each end. The lower part of the bridge is Roman, as it is very easy to discern by the regular rustic cut of the stones,

stones, and the words AVGVST....PONTEM, the remains of an inscription, between the arches. A little beyond a place called Cabecas we met the first travelling coach we had seen on the road since we left Barcelona.

Farm-houses are dispersed about this country, as they are with us in England. The harvest is gotten in by the Galliegos, that travel from Galicia to assist those provinces, where the inhabitants are too lazy or too few in number to gather the riches which Nature, almost unsolicited, throws before them with profusion. The excessive badness of the highway obliged us to drive through the lands, which in their year of fallow run up into the thickest and strongest crops of French honeysuckle I ever beheld. Were this province properly peopled there would be no bounds to its produce, for the soil is inexhaustible, so eminently rich, that through all this luxuriance of vegetation the wheels penetrated many inches into the loam. To balance these advantages, it must be confessed that the crops in Andalusia are very precarious, for if a sudden glare of sunshine succeeds too rapidly to a morning fog, the whole country is blighted.

We passed by the lake of Lebrixa, a handsome piece of water, surrounded by sloping grounds, and regular plantations of olive-trees.

Xeres

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Xeres is a large town, with winding streets, and horrible kennels of black stagnated water ; as the wheel broke the crust upon them, there arose an almost suffocating stench. The hills about the town are pretty, and the views towards Cadiz very pleasing. Some poets have placed the Elysian fields in this neighbourhood, and pretended that the Guadalete was Lethe or the river of oblivion. If so, they had never seen the place, or it has undergone strange alterations since their days ; for this paradise is now an immense marshy flat, through which a narrow river, much resembling those in the Lincolnshire fens, winds its course to the sea : not a stick of wood to be seen near it. We are to pass this Lethe to-morrow, and, lest the influence should operate upon me, I think it advisable to end my letter with assuring you, while I yet remember the ties and friendship of this upper world, that I am your's affectionately.

Cadiz, January 14.

Our carriages were sent off this morning, seven leagues round, by the bridge of Suaço, which joins the island of Leon to the main land of Spain ; and we hired a bark, and fell down the Guadalete. Port St. Mary's is a long town, pleasantly situated on the river side. The bar at the mouth of the river is often very dangerous ;

gerous ; our master made a collection among us for the souls of such as have perished there. The view of the bay, shipping, and city stretching into the ocean, is one of the most beautiful in the world. The passage, which is about nine miles broad, took us two hours, as the wind failed us, but it may be done in less than half the time.

LETTER XXVIII.

Cadiz, January 30, 1776.

ISCARCE hope to see a fair day again, for we have had nothing but rain since our arrival. The sea has been very boisterous, and several ships have been cast away along the coast. Yesterday two men coming to town with provisions were swept off the isthmus by a sudden swell of the waves, and never heard of more.

Cadiz occupies the whole surface of the western extremity of the isle of Leon, which is composed of two large circular parts, joined together by a very narrow bank of sand, forming all together the figure of a chain-shot. At the south-east end, the ancient bridge of

Suaço,

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Suaço, thrown over a deep channel or river, affords a communication between the island and the continent; a strong line of works defends the city from all approaches along the isthmus; and, to render them still more difficult, all the gardens and little villas on the beach were in 1762 cleared away, and a dreary, sandy glacis left in their room, so that now there is scarce a tree on the whole island. They expected an attack from the English during the last war; but it would be madness in an enemy to attempt it on this side; and a by-stander is apt to think an immense sum of money has been lavished on these fortifications without any apparent necessity; but the Spaniards are warranted in their caution by the authority of history, from which we learn that the earl of Essex stormed Cadiz in 1596, by an assault on the land-quarter.

Except the *Calle Ancha*, all the streets are narrow, ill-paved, and insufferably stinking. They are all drawn in strait lines, and most of them intersect each other at right angles. The swarms of rats that in the nights run about the streets are innumerable; whole droves of them pass and repass continually, and these their midnight revels are extremely troublesome to such as walk late. The houses are lofty, with each a vestibule, which being left open till night, serve passengers to retire to; this custom, which prevails throughout Spain, renders

renders these places exceedingly offensive. In the middle of the house is a court like a deep well, under which is generally a cistern, the breeding-place of gnats and mosquitos; the ground-floors are warehouses, the first stories counting-house or kitchen, and the principal apartment up two pair of stairs. The roofs are flat, covered with an impenetrable cement, and few are without a *mirador* or turret for the purpose of commanding a view of the sea. Round the parapet-wall at top are placed rows of square pillars, meant either for ornament according to some traditional mode of decoration, or to fix awnings to, that such as sit there for the benefit of the sea-breeze may be sheltered from the rays of the sun; but the most common use made of them, is to fasten ropes for drying linen upon. High above all these pinnacles, which give Cadiz a most singular appearance, stands the tower of signals: here flags are hung out on the first sight of a sail, marking the size of the ship, the nation it belongs to, and, if a Spanish Indiaman, the port of the Indies it comes from. The ships are acquainted with the proper signals to be made, and these are repeated by the watchmen of the tower: as painted lists are in every house, persons concerned in commerce soon learn the marks.

The city is divided into twenty-four quarters, under the inspection of as many commissioners of police, and

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its population is reckoned at one hundred and forty thousand inhabitants, of which twelve thousand are French, and at least as many more Italians.

The square of Saint Antonio is large, and tolerably handsome, and there are a few smaller openings of no great note. The public walk, or Alameda, is pleasant in the evening: it is fenced off the coach-road by a marble rail. The sea-air prevents the trees from thriving, and destroys all hopes of future shade.

From the Alameda, continuing your walk westwards, you come to the Campofanto, a large esplanade, the only airing-place for coaches; it turns round most part of the west and south sides of the island, but the buildings are straggling and ugly; the only edifice of any show is the new orphan-house; opposite to it is the fortress of Saint Sebastian, built on a neck of land running out into the sea. The round tower at the extremity is supposed to have saved the city, in the great earthquake of 1755, from being swept away by the fury of the waves. The building proved sufficiently solid to withstand the shock, and break the immense volume of water that threatened destruction to the whole island. In the narrow part of the isthmus the surge beat over with amazing impetuosity, and bore down all before it; among the rest, the grandson of the famous tragic-poet Racine, who strove in vain to escape,

escape, by urging his horse to the utmost of his speed.

On Saint Sebastian's feast, a kind of wake or fair is held in the fort; an astonishing number of people then passing and repassing, on a string of wooden bridges laid from rock to rock, makes a very lively moving picture.

From hence to the wooden circus where they exhibit the bull-feasts, you keep turning to the left close above the sea, which on all this side dashes over large ledges of rock; the shore seems here absolutely inaccessible. This part of the walk is dirty, and infected with all manner of nasty smells, for here the whole filth of the town is brought, to be tumbled through a hole in the wall, into the sea. It might puzzle an observer, what cause to ascribe this piece of management to, whether to the great distance from garden or tillage grounds, which renders the carriage of the dung too expensive; or to the laziness of the citizens, who are glad to rid themselves, with the least possible trouble, of the obligation laid upon them of removing that dirt, which they had rather were left to rot under their noses. As water-carriage must be cheap, I am inclined to attribute this waste to the latter cause.

On this shore stands the cathedral, a work of great
F f 2 expence,

expencc, but carried on with so little vigour, that it is difficult to guess at the term of years it will require to bring it to perfection; I think fifty have already elapsed since the first stone was laid, and the roof is not yet half finished. The vaults are executed with great solidity. The arches, that spring from the clustered pilasters to support the roof of the church, are very bold; the minute sculpture bestowed upon them seems superfluous, as all the effect will be lost from their great height, and from the shade that will be thrown upon them by the filling up of the interstices. From the sea, the present top of the church resembles the carcase of some huge monster cast upon its side, rearing its gigantic blanched ribs high above the buildings of the city. The outward casings are to be of white marble, the bars of the windows of bronze; but I fear the work will be coarsely done, if one may draw an inference from the sample of a small chapel, where the squares are so loosely jointed and ill fitted, that in a few years the facing will be quite spoilt. It is unfair to prejudge a piece of architecture in such an imperfect state, but I apprehend the style of this will be crowded and heavy.

Next, crossing before the land-gate and barracks, a superb edifice for strength, convenience, and cleanliness, you come down to the ramparts that defend the city

city on the side of the bay. If the prospect to the ocean is solemn, that towards the main land is animated in the highest degree; the men of war ride in the eastern bosom of the bay; lower down the merchantmen are spread far and near; and close to the town an incredible number of barks, of various shapes and sizes, cover the surface of the water, some moored and some in motion, carrying goods to and fro. The opposite shore of Spain is studded with white houses, and enlivened by the towns of Saint Mary's, Port-real, and others, behind which, eastward, on a ridge of hills, stands Medina Sidonia, and further back rise the mountains of Granada. Westward, Rota closes the horizon, near which was anciently the island and city of Tartessus, now covered by the sea, but at low-water some part of the ruins are still to be discerned.

In a large bastion, jutting out into the bay, they have built the custom-house, the first story of which is level with the walk upon the walls. When it was resolved to erect a building so necessary to this great emporium of trade, the marquis di Squillace gave orders that no expence should be spared, and the most intelligent architects employed, in order to erect a monument, which by its taste and magnificence might excite the admiration of posterity; the result of these precautions

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precautions proved a piece of vile architecture, composed of the worst of materials.

Don't expect from me a long, scientific detail of the operations of commerce in this port ; so much has been written on the subject by persons versed in these matters, that, as it would be impertinent to repeat their observations *verbatim*, so it would be ridiculous in me, who am not initiated in the mysteries of trade, nor long resident in the place, to attempt to add any thing to their accounts ; all I have to observe amounts to this, that of late years the Spaniards have entered with more spirit into the concerns of the flota ¹⁴ than they did formerly ; and that there have been some egregious breaches of that so-much-celebrated punctilio of honour, which, added to the immense profits expected from the risk, induces foreigners to trust their property upon this venture, with no other security than the bare word of a Spanish supercargo. Not along ago, one of these, upon his landing at Vera Cruz, made a declaration before the governor, that the cargo entered and shipped in his name was not his own, but belonged to a French house. Matters turned out rather contrary to his expectations ;

¹⁴ The flota is a fleet of large ships (fourteen this year) which carry out the goods of Europe to the ports of America, and bring back the produce of Mexico, Peru, and other kingdoms of the new world,

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for the governor threw him into gaol, where he still remains; but I believe the French owners give up their merchandize for lost.

The stir here is prodigious during the last months of the stay of the flota. The packers possess the art of pressing goods in great perfection; but, as they pay the freight according to the cubic palms of each bale, they are apt to squeeze down the cloths and linens so very close and hard, as sometimes to render them unfit for use. The exportation of French luxuries in dress is enormous; Lyons furnishes most of them; England sends out bale-goods; Brittany and the north, linens.

As the king exacts four per cent. on all gold and silver coin exported, and punishes very severely all delinquents taken in the fact, the smugglers have long followed a very simple but sure method of defrauding him of his duty:—A man well known in the town comes to any merchant that he thinks may want to make a remittance of dollars, and proposes to send the sum wanted on board such a ship, at two and a half per cent. the smuggler to advance the money, and to be repaid upon producing the captain of the ship's receipt. As the officer at the gates is commonly one of the confederates, this practice has been long carried on with tolerable security; but since the late coinage, the profits upon running money are scarce equivalent to the risks
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of having the ship confiscated, and all concerned in the transaction sent for life to the African presidios.

Great interest is made to protract the departure of the flota beyond the day fixed for its sailing, that all the goods expected may have time to arrive; and in this case, as in most others, money properly distributed seldom fails of producing the desired effect.

Every commercial nation has a consul resident at Cadiz; those of England and France are the only ones not allowed to have any concern in trade.

This small, populous, and well-inclosed city has the misfortune of being under worse regulations of police than any place in Europe. All this winter, street-robberies and house-breakings have been frequent, and no effectual steps taken to prevent the disorder. I have heard that the Conde de Xerena Bucarelli, the governor, has made a vow to shed no blood during his regency; this cruel clemency has given such spirit to the operations of the robbers, that they have had the audaciousness to paste up an advertisement in the streets, cautioning all people whatever to avoid resistance, and to submit quietly to be rifled, that their plunderers may not be reduced to the disagreeable necessity of employing the poniard. A very little diligence, with the assistance of so strong a garrison, would restore the public safety in a short time; but, as a burgher always
accompanies

accompanies the patrol, the military cannot act but under his direction, and he will never hurt or molest any of his countrymen or neighbours, for the sake of preserving the lives and property of strangers: indeed, if a native be apprehended for the most enormous offence against the laws of his country, it is next to impossible to procure a sentence against him; for, as long as he has a groat in the world to spend in prison, or a friend to solicit in his favour, the *alcade* or judge will never bring him to trial; and when at last his purse is drained, and his crimes proved against him, it is ten to one they can get no body to make a gallows to hang him upon. A soldier is soon dispatched, if he falls under the same predicament. Burglaries have been committed, and large sums of money carried out of counting-houses, the thieves taken and lodged in gaol, yet the owners have not been able to recover any part of the cash; which the gentlemen of the robe and the culprit have spent in carousing together. Nay, one villain, in an attempt to carry part of his prize out of the gates, in order to take shipping for the Indies, being stopt, and the money seized as contraband, the person who had been robbed could not prevail upon the governor to restore his property to him, notwithstanding the clearest proofs of the robbery. Take notice, that in cases of con-

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fiscation, one half of the seizure goes to the informer, the other to the governor. However, this most glaring piece of injustice could not be tamely submitted to, and the cause was laid before the council of Castille, where it is still depending. In less considerable losses, the best way is to sit down contented with your misfortune, and take better care for the future, as it would cost you double the sum lost, were you to pursue any of the methods pointed out by the law for redress.

The way of life here is not very brilliant. The different nations keep much among themselves. The French houses follow rather a gayer plan than the others. Our countrymen settled here, live in a very hospitable, social style, and are always happy to contribute every thing in their power towards rendering the place agreeable to such travellers as visit their city. Indeed this is a tribute of praise our gratitude will ever prompt us to pay to the British merchants established beyond seas, having in many parts of Europe had occasion to experience their friendly disposition.

At this time of the year neither the meat nor the fish is excellent. The bottom of the bay being muddy, and the fishermen not venturing from the coast, the quality of the fish brought to market is not so firm and good as might be expected ; at some seasons the oysters
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taken here are rank poison; the water of the island is bad, and what most families drink comes from Port Saint Mary.

The usual afternoon amusements in winter are, a faunter on the Alameda, and the theatres. The Spanish play, which exhibits but a poor set of actors, begins about four; the Italian opera, not much better provided, about seven; and the French house opens rather earlier, and ends sooner, by which means the company may partake of great part of each of the entertainments in the same evening. The last-mentioned theatre is upon a very grand footing, supported by the voluntary subscriptions of the French merchants settled here. As the out-goings exceed the profits, they begin to be sick of so heavy a load, and it is likely their stage will be given up, upon the expiration of the term for which the factory entered into engagements with the actors.

L E T T E R XXIX.

Gibraltar, March 9, 1776.

THE end of the carnival at Cadiz differed very little from the beginning; no public balls or masquerades being allowed; the only marks of the festivity of shrove-tide, were the pailfulls of water which the women in the balconies poured upon the men in flouched hats and cloaks that passed within their reach. There were, however, many assemblies and balls of a lower class, where the fandango was danced *a la ley*, that is, in all the perfection it is capable of. Among the gipsies there is another dance, called the *Manguindoy*, so lascivious and indecent, that it is prohibited under severe penalties; the tune is quite simple, little more than a constant return of the same set of notes; this, as well as the fandango, is said to have been imported from the Havannah, being both of negro breed. I have been told, that upon the coast of Africa they exhibit a variety of strange dances, pretty similar to these. Whatever may have been the birth-place of the fandango, it is now so thoroughly naturalized in Spain, that every Spaniard may be said to be born with it in his head and heels;
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I have seen a child of three years of age dance it to the mother's fingering, with steps and turns scarce to be credited in an infant of that age. Towards the close of the great balls given heretofore in the theatre, when all the company appeared drooping with fatigue and overpowered with sleep, it was a constant trick of the fiddlers to strike up the fandango. In an instant, as if roused from the slumbers of enchantment by the magic touch of a fairy's wand, every body started up, and the whole house resounded with the uproar of clapping of hands, footing, jumping, and snapping of fingers.

As I have mentioned the gitanos, or gipsies, who swarm in this province more than in any other part of the realm, I think it a proper place to note down some particulars relative to this singular sect, who have kept themselves separate from the rest of mankind ever since their first appearance recorded in history. Their origin remains a problem, not to be satisfactorily solved, and I doubt whether the gitanos themselves have any secret tradition that might lead to a discovery of what they really were in the beginning, or from what country they came. The received opinion sets them down for Egyptians, and makes them out to be the descendants of those vagabond votaries of Isis, who appeared to have exercised in ancient Rome pretty much the same profession as that followed by the present gipsies, viz.

fortune-

fortune-telling, strolling up and down, and pilfering. Few of them employ themselves in works of husbandry or handicraft; indeed the Spaniards would not work with them. Except a small number that follow the trade of blacksmiths or vintners, most of the men are makers of little iron rings, and other trifles, rather to prevent their being laid hold of as vagrants than really as a means of subsistence. Several of them travel about as carriers and pedlars, but none enlist as soldiers or sailors, or bind themselves as servants. Though they conform to the Roman catholic mode of worship, they are looked upon in the light of unbelievers; but I never could meet with any body that pretended to say what their private faith and religion might be: all the gipsies I have conversed with, assured me of their sound catholicism; and I have seen the medal of Nuestra Señora del Carmel sewed on the sleeves of several of their women. They seldom venture upon any crimes that might endanger their lives; petty-larceny is the utmost extent of their roguery. Their men are tall, well built, and swarthy, with a bad scowling eye, and a kind of favourite lock of hair left to grow down before their ears, which rather increases the gloominess of their features: their women are nimble, and supple-jointed; when young, they are generally handsome, with very fine black eyes; when old, they become the worst-favoured.

voured hags in nature. Their ears and necks are loaded with trinkets and baubles, and most of them wear a large patch on each temple. Both sexes are remarkably expert at dancing, and sing the wild seguidillas with a peculiar turn of humour or tenderness, according to the subject. The present king had thoughts of banishing the whole race out of his dominions; but I believe the project is dropt, as the gipsies are rather an useless than a mischievous people. Their abode in the country, or their expulsion, seems a matter of little consequence, for the loss would not be severely felt, except in the apparent diminution of population; as they are of little or no service in the state, neither cultivating its lands, forwarding its manufactures and commerce, conveying its productions to foreign parts, or fighting its battles. Perhaps they render themselves necessary to the amusement of the common people, out of whose simplicity they work themselves a maintenance.

The weather being tolerably settled, we set out on horseback from Cadiz, about a fortnight ago, taking with us our beds and provisions, a precaution of great consequence in this journey. We left Cadiz in the afternoon, travelling along the sandy isthmus to the Isla, a town of a single street, that leads down to the bridge and redoubt of Suago, where we got once more upon the main land. Soon after we struck off the great Xeres road,

road, into a flat marshy country, intersected by numberless drains and ponds for making salt, of which we saw many large heaps. This commodity is made with so little trouble, and sold to so small an advantage, that the makers don't think it worth their while to set up sheds, or build magazines, but prefer running the risk of losing half of it by the wet. Passing through a great mill, across many bridges and creeks, and through a very fine wood of pines, we arrived by moonlight at Chiclana, the Clapham or Hampstead of the merchants of Cadiz. It is a large well-built town, upon a navigable river, that winds through the low lands into the bay. After Easter, all is mirth and jollity here, for it is then crowded with families that retire hither to divert themselves, and to rub off the dull rust of Lent. The houses are exact copies of those of Cadiz, and the streets very near as offensive to the smell; but the environs are charming, and beautifully rural.

The next morning we were out very early, expecting a long laborious ride. After a troublesome ascent up some greasy hills, we passed through a noble pine wood, into an immense expanse of heath-land, speckled with an incredible variety of flowers, most of them unknown to me in their natural uncultivated state. I here saw a great many of the small red and yellow tulip, which, I am told, is the only species indigenous
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in Europe, and many beautiful kinds of the orchis, some representing bees and flies so naturally as to deceive at first sight.

On our right we left Conil, once famous for its tunny-fishery, which of late has dwindled away to nothing. We had afterwards an hilly corn country to pass, where the peasants, at work weeding the fields, amused themselves with giving us a volley of abuse, which to us was utterly unintelligible, but was no doubt very witty, as every speech the orator of the crew made raised loud peals of laughter in his companions. Their mirth was a little disturbed by a piece of humour of our Catalans, who, setting their sharp three-cornered hats up perpendicular on their heads, in imitation of horns, and sticking out their fingers, began to whistle with might and main. The Andalusians did not seem to relish the joke, and after some silence, set a scolding at us in a very angry tone of voice, which lasted as long as we were within hearing.

From these bare heights, we descended into a narrow vale, which almost encompasses the mountain that the town of Vegel stands upon. Seven picturesque aqueducts, or rather divisions of one, convey a fine supply of water from the hills to seven mills belonging to the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Each mill is placed at a considerable distance below the other, the seventh stands

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quite

quite in the level at the bottom. Nothing can be prettier than these terraces, and little falls of water. Round each dwelling is a sweet orange-grove. The hedges along the steep sides of the road are thick set with *laurustinus*, now in flower, and many other handsome plants. The lowest part of the valley is a delightful spot, full of orchards and gardens, refreshed by innumerable streams of clear water running through the meadows into a deep river, which falls into the sea a few miles below.

We intended to have dined at the foot of the mountain of Vegel, but the hovel, called an inn, was so intolerably nasty, and the appearance of the sky seemed so much to threaten us with a dark, rainy evening, that we determined to pass by, and content ourselves with eating a morsel on horseback, as we jogged on. We crossed the river on an ancient Roman bridge, plain and solid, and then mounted a very steep sandy bank, on the top of which I found a ledge of mouldering rocks, full of *ostracites* and *pectinites*, some in a hard natural state, others so soft as to crumble to dust under the finger. The road lay afterwards through a forest of cork-trees, and the latter part of the day along a wet open pasture country. After being thirteen hours on horseback, with a drizzling rain upon us half the time, we were glad to stop at *Los Cortijos* about eight at night.

Here

Here had formerly been a venta, but all we could find was the cabin of a retailer of tobacco. This miserable dwelling consisted of one room, not well enough thatched to prevent the rain from beating through, and yet too close to let out the smoke of a few sticks burning in the middle of the house. The landlord, his wife, and children, occupied one end of the habitation, and abandoned the remainder to us, who were seven in number, squeezed into the space of a few feet square. The smoke grew so powerful, and the company so streightened for room, that after supper I retired across a kind of yard, to a manger in the stable, where I lay down, wrapped up in my cloak, upon the straw, and got a very comfortable nap till day-break, when we proceeded on our journey.

We travelled through a large tract of wet pastures, full of herds of cattle, with here and there a wretched hut for the herdsmen. After a long dreary ride over the hills that encircle these plains, we entered the woodlands, where we found the roads so wet and stony, that our baggage-mules were more than once laid fast. This forest extends many miles, during which we saw but one house; and that being white, and placed at the head of a lawn, environed with hanging woods, made a most romantic appearance. The prospects in these wildernesses are delightful, and we should have

found the ride through them charming, had our attention been less engaged by the continual apprehensions we were under of our horses falling in the deep broken roads. High mountains, and bold rocky cliffs, hang on every side over the groves; the timber trees are oak and cork, the underwood, shrubs of numberless kinds, growing with the greatest vigour and luxuriance; such as the laurustinus, arbutus, brooms, citifus, forb, mastic-tree, privet, phylirea, cistus, oleander, pomegranate, bay, laurel, myrtle, butcher's broom, wild pear, heath at least fifteen feet high, &c. but the most remarkable is the rhododendron ponticum, with large purple flowers; it grows by the edge of the torrents that tumble down through the woods, and is a plant of singular beauty.

Upon leaving the thickets, we had a fine view of the rock of Gibraltar and the coast of Africa, a very grand marine scene. We then came to a rich vale of cornland, and a pretty meandering river, which we crossed twice near *Los Barios*, a small hamlet. From thence we found all the country marshy by the side of the bay of Gibraltar, or bare and hilly near San Roque, a large village on the top of a hill, overlooking the whole bay. Here the Spanish governor of the lines resides.

The next day we waited upon Don Joachim de Mendoza, the governor, who gave us the necessary passports.

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By his persuasion, we deposited what cash we had in the hands of his secretary, as it is forbidden to take above a crown apiece out of the Spanish territory. This proved a very superfluous caution, for we passed unsearched through the lines, and might have carried out of the Spanish bounds as much gold as we pleased. The lines are a fortification, that runs across the isthmus which separates Gibraltar from the continent. A regiment of infantry, several batteries, and a fort at each end, defend this barrier of the Spanish monarchy. It is about half an hour's ride from the land-gate of the English garrison.

The most extraordinary fortress and mountain, from which I date my letter, have been so often described by particular histories, prints, and drawings, that I shall not take up your leisure with needless repetitions. The views published by Major Macé are exact, and convey a very good idea of the four different faces of the mountain. Since the time of their publication, general Boyd has compleated the roads up the hill in every necessary direction: a carriage may now go up to the signal-house, which before seemed a place where none but goats could climb up to.

The hospitality of the governor, officers, and inhabitants; the bustle, military music, and parade; the fine appearance of the troops; the variety of tongues spoken
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and of dresses worn here, are themes I could enlarge upon for whole pages. After so long a journey through the still wastes and silent stupid towns of Spain, where every thing bears the marks of languor and indolence, we were at first quite flurried and confounded with the hurry in the garrison, the perpetual noise of cannon, and the reports of the soldiers going through their firing exercise. In the first nights we were startled with the frequent passing of the parole, which runs like a train of fire round the line of fortifications. It seemed strange to hear our native language spoken in the streets, to read it under the signs, and to meet so many English faces. I should have forgotten how far I was from home, had I not been reminded of the latitude by the brilliant clearness of the deep blue sky, and the sight of the African mountains, whose snowy tops, and even the objects at their feet, are very distinctly seen by the naked eye. You may discern all the buildings in Ceuta, and even in Tangier the houses may be distinguished in a clear day. We indulged the honest pride of Englishmen, in admiring the tall, handsome figures, and spirited, martial presence of the soldiers, and in drawing very comfortable parallels between them and the dirty melancholy dwarfs we had seen mounting guard in the Spanish garrisons.

We are now waiting for a fair wind to carry us over
to

TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN. 239

to Tetuan or to Tangiers. The boat-loads of fresh oranges brought over almost every morning from the coast of Barbary, and tumbled out into the streets, increase the eagerness we have long felt for that expedition: but the wind is very cruel, and I begin to have my fears about the possibility of it. The Barbary oranges are exquisite, but, as the summer advances, are apt to grow too luscious, though they preserve their juiciness.

Gibraltar, March 11.

We are wind-bound, but remain in hourly expectation of sailing to Africa. Our *settee*, or bark, and baggage, are ready, and we ourselves on the watch for an easterly breeze. Yesterday the wind came about to the east, and in a trice the bay was covered with Dutch men of war, and all sorts of merchantmen, crowding sail to get through the Gut before the wind should change: above fifty sail came from the Mediterranean, round Europa Point, but in less than an hour the wind shifted to its old corner again, and every one of them was driven back into the bay, or behind the rock, where they may beat about for weeks against wind and current. Never was there known so long a continuance of westerly winds at this time of the year.

Gibraltar,

Gibraltar, March 13.

Last night all the Jews were in masquerade, dancing and merry-making; a fine contrast with the gloominess of Lent, a few miles to the north of us. This place may literally be styled the Paradise of that dispersed nation; for here they seem to be at home, carry on a great retail trade, and supply the garrison with many common articles of consumption. They are Barbary Jews, a comely race of men, and much better featured than their Portuguese or German brethren. Their dress differs from that of the common Moors in nothing but the cap, which the latter wear red, the Jews black, though here they venture frequently to put on red ones.

All religions seem welcome to this town, and meet without animosity, as on some neutral ground. The Spanish church is served by a jolly priest, who, besides very ample emoluments and casualties, receives from the English government a stipend of fifty pounds: with this income he gives balls and entertainments to his parishioners, and lives in a very jovial manner. He seems perfectly well pleased with his Protestant neighbours, and quite reconciled to seeing the Cordelier convent converted into the residence of an English governor.

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The Barbary beef, furnished on contract by the Moors, is excellent, and the fish taken in the bay is the best I have tasted since I left Bourdeaux.

The mountain abounds with partridges, which breed in peace, and pass their lives undisturbed, as no body is allowed to shoot within the garrison. The young officers take the diversion of fox-hunting on the Spanish hills, where there is abundance of foxes, but little running: the great number of holes among the rocks prevents the game from being kept going, after the first burst.

That beautiful bird, the whoopoop, or March cock, is common on the mountain; and high up are herds of large monkeys, but I never was lucky enough to get a sight of them.

On the east side, in the most broken part of the precipices, is a *stratum* of bones of all sizes, belonging to various animals and fowls, enchased in an incrustation of a reddish calcarious rock.

L E T T E R XXX.

Seville, April 8, 1776:

ALAS! all our schemes upon Africa came to nothing: the inflexible west wind continued blowing with uninterrupted fury, till the time fixed for our stay at Gibraltar was elapsed. At first we intended to cross over to Tetuan, and there hire horses or mules to carry us over land to Tangiers, which would have afforded us an opportunity of seeing a good deal of the country: but this project was dropped, in consequence of an order issued out by the emperor of Morocco, prohibiting all Christians from approaching, or even looking upon the holy city of Tetuan, where some English had lately committed an outrage upon the Moorish women. Being disappointed in our first plan, we pitched upon that of running over to Tangiers, and from thence making an excursion into the inland parts. Both these hopes were defeated by the contrary winds, and we were under the necessity of giving up so favourite a point, which, you may believe, was a most sensible mortification to us both.

We returned to Cadiz by our former route, some trifling deviations excepted; one of which was, to visit
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the almost imperceptible remains of the city of Carteia, where Cneius, son of Pompey the Great, took refuge after the battle of Munda. These ruins, of which scarce any thing but part of a wall is to be seen, stand on a rising ground at the mouth of a little river, which falls into the north-west corner of the bay. Writers have blundered strangely about the situation of this town, some placing it at Algeçiras, or Old Gibraltar, and others so far off as Tariff. The rubbish, and the quantity of its own coins found here, which are common enough among the Jews of Gibraltar, leave no room to doubt of the truth of the tradition which fixes it upon this spot. In passing the woods beyond *Los Varios*, we raised a prodigious eagle of the golden kind : our servants, who went before, took it for a boy muffled up in a yellowish cloak, and were so surprized when it took wing, that we could not prevail upon the man who carried the blunderbuss to fire at it, till it was got out of reach. Its colour was a dusky yellow shaded with green, its head very smooth and dark ; about the belly it was of a muddy brown.

At nightfall we came to a farm-house belonging to the duke of Medina Sidonia, where the servants, in the absence of the master farmer, refused to give us leave to pass the night. One of our men being dispatched into the field, brought the farmer with him, very much out

of humour at his house being made an inn of, and fully determined to pack us off about our business, as he suspected us to be little better than rogues and smugglers; indeed the appearance of our messenger was not unfavourable to that opinion. S. G* exhibited a set of stern features, with a thick black beard; an old laced hat fiercely cocked hanging over his eyes; a military jacket, across which was slung a scimitar and a pair of pistols; dirty leather spatterdashies, a hoarse voice, strange language, and foreign accent. All this together could hardly, in such a country, convey the idea of any thing but a captain of banditti. When the farmer entered his court-yard, and saw such a formidable set of armed men in possession of his castle, he thought it advisable to alter his tone, and be very civil. We accepted his offer of a new barn or granary, where we pitched our tents, supped, and slept very comfortably, having previously stuffed with straw the holes which had been left in the wall for the free ingress and egress of the pigeons.

These farms are very extensive, and entirely unconnected with their neighbours. Each farm has its own baker, who twice a week distributes a certain quota of bread to each house-servant, herdsman, plough-boy, and shepherd. The plain about the house is a deep rich soil, the pasturage luxuriant, but in many places over-run
with

with weeds and rank grafs; a muddy rivulet winds through the flats, and is often a very troublesome pass for travellers.

We met with nothing remarkable on the road to Veggel; storks, whoopoops, and a fox, were the only living creatures we saw. The sun grew so extremely powerful, that we were glad to pass the noon-tide hours under a large tree before the door of one of the *fiete molinos*, by the side of a brook. The miller and his neighbours were very civil, and furnished us with a table, chairs, glasses, and every thing necessary for our repast, one of the most delicious I ever made. The old and young formed a circle round us, while we devoured our cold ham and turkey. As I perceived one of the young fellows smile and look very arch, I told him I hoped he was not scandalized at our eating meat in Lent, as we were allowed that liberty, as travellers. "No, no," replied he, "not I indeed; for I know you belong to a happy set of people, with whom *to-day* is always the *holiday*, "and to-morrow the *vigil* and *fast*." His joke made us laugh, and set all his companions in a roar: in the height of our mirth and good-humour, a little old woman ventured to ask a taste of a bumper of Malaga, which being the bottom of a bottle I had given my man to drink, he endeavoured to put her off, with telling her that it was the wine of the Moors, consequently
ungodly,

ungodly, and such as a zealous Spaniard would think himself poisoned were he to put it to his lips ; however the old dame begged she might taste it out of curiosity, and having once got the glass into her hands, swallowed every drop of the wine at one gulp, to the great astonishment of poor S. G*** ; to comfort him, she assured him she should have a better opinion of the Moors as long as she lived, since they made and drank such excellent liquor.

In about three hours ride we got to Chiclana, and next day hired a bark to carry us to Cadiz. The rowing down the river was very pleasant, as by its continual winding we kept in sight of the pretty hill of Chiclana, till we passed through the arches of the bridge of Suago into the bay. The channel through the shallows is very narrow and crooked. The king's dockyards at the Caraccas lie near the entrance ; and farther down is the Trocadero ; or magazines and docks for merchantmen. The approach to the city was beautiful ; but the slowness of our motion, retarded by contrary winds and currents, made us heartily sick of our water party.

On the 3d of April we left Cadiz, and in less than an hour landed at Port Saint Mary, where we were received and entertained for three days by general count Alexander O'Reilly, with every possible demonstration
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of politeness and cordiality. This gentleman has been of late so much talked of, that I was eager to seize the opportunity of passing some time with him. To attempt to draw his character is far above my powers, or those of any three days' acquaintance. It would be unfair and presumptuous to decide upon the merits or demerits of any man on such slight grounds. He appears to be very active, intelligent, and severe, in the post of inspector-general of the Spanish infantry, an employment of great business. I believe him skilled in tactics; to have read a great deal in his more advanced time of life (for I don't imagine his education furnished him with any great stock of learning;) to have seen with a penetrating eye, and to have studied profoundly the characters and weaknesses of men. His intrepidity in facing, and steadiness in conquering, all difficulties, that may lie in his way to preferment, are sufficiently known and variously descanted upon: his memory is prodigious; his judgment of men and things quick and precise, perhaps too peremptory. He has much ready wit at command, especially when he has a mind to turn the laugh against any particular person, in which case he is accused of often carrying the joke too far; and I don't know but he may owe some of his many enemies to the ridicule he has sometimes thrown upon them. Some think him rather too fond of talking, and of making himself the subject of his

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his discourse, but they must acknowledge he speaks with great eloquence in a variety of languages. His countenance and figure are rather comely; but a wound in his knee causes him to limp, an imperfection which has afforded his enemies great scope for raillery: the king's fondness for him bears him up against all their efforts to ruin him; his majesty, who thinks himself indebted to O'Reilly for his life, in the sedition of Madrid¹⁵, supports him with inflexible constancy. When the new road was making to the palace of the Pardo, a little, ugly ever-green oak was found to stand in the line marked out for the highway. This tree, by its oddity and solitary position, had attracted the notice and gained the favour of the king, who forbade the engineers to meddle with it. In spite of all the remonstrances of the minister and surveyors, the oak still remains standing in the middle of the road; the king often shews it to his courtiers, and, observing with a smile, that it has no friend but himself, calls it O'Reilly.

The only morning we had free from rain, we employed in a ride to Sanlucar, to see the mouth of the Guadalquiver, the ancient Bætis, where the fleets of Spain were wont to rendezvous, before Cadiz was made the

¹⁵ He rode into the crowd of rioters, and shot a fellow dead that had taken up a stone and was going to throw it at the king.

staple for Indian goods, and before the bar at the mouth became so considerable as to impede the navigation of large vessels.

The ground rises very beautifully west of Saint Mary's; it is a perfect garden: spring, which is now in full vigour, and every hedge and bush covered with flowers, rendered our jaunt delightful. The kermes or holme-oak is in great beauty, quite on fire with the scarlet gall-nuts of the little insect which produces the false cochineal. Near the Guadalquivir, the country is arable, with few inclosures. In times of remote antiquity Sanlucar was called Fanum Luciferi. It was once the port of Seville, and at the seasons for the arrival or departure of the fleets, the most stirring place in Europe: at present it is a neat, quiet town, without much business. The small ships that carry on its trade, lie half a league farther up in the Ansa, where the Indian flota used to moor. The river is wide and very rough at the bar; the opposite shore so dead a flat, that it is difficult to distinguish it from the water. I sauntered along the Playa de Sanlucar, without meeting a soul: how changed from what it was in the days of Cervantes; when it was crowded with the busy and the idle, the honest and the profligate.

On Friday evening we came to Xeres. I was much surprized to hear, from good authority, that this city

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contains no less than forty thousand inhabitants, of which a twentieth part are ecclesiastics. We went next morning to the monastery of Carthusian monks, a few miles off, remarkable for its breed of horses, and for a very fine view over the plains towards the bay and shipping of Cadiz. The day was sultry, and I could with pleasure have lolled it out in the prior's garden, under the shade of a noble lemon-tree, refreshed by the soft perfumes ascending on every side from the neighbouring orchards.

This convent, founded in 1482 by Alvaris de Val-leto, a citizen of Xeres, is grand, and well laid out: water is conveyed into every public hall and private cell. We were disappointed of the principal end of our journey, which was to see their fine stallions, but they were all out in the country at the covering-stables. The earth, in the cemeteries of Xeres, has the quality of preserving corpses incorrupted for years and ages.

Upon leaving Xeres, we found the roads much the worse for the heavy rains; and two days were spent in travelling a few miles through stiff, deep clays, where we expected to stick fast every instant, as the wheels were clogged to a great height. We saw some bustards in these plains.

This morning we arrived in Seville, which appears to great advantage from the hills, at the distance of a couple

ple of miles. The soil upon the heights is sandy, planted with pine-trees and vines, inclosed with hedges of various kinds of shrubs, among which there is a great quantity of yellow jasmine. Round the city is a great plain of corn-lands, pastures, and gardens; the Guadalquivir, which runs through it, is very subject to overflow its banks, and lay all the adjacent country under water; the lowlands by the river side are common, and two years cropped with corn, the third left to run up into grafs.

/ When we entered the city, our muleteers were obliged to ride as postillions on the foremost mules, to comply with the orders of the magistrates for preventing stoppages and accidents in the streets, which are uncommonly crooked and narrow.

L E T T E R XXXI.

Seville, April 9, 1776.

WE arrived yesterday morning in this capital of Andalusia; and as soon as we had dined and drest ourselves, walked out with no particular object in view, but merely to stroll through the streets, by way of making ourselves acquainted with the city; chance led us into the court of the Alcazar, or royal palace, and the centry directed us to a gallery, which he said would bring us to the gardens. You have often heard me launch out in praise of some hanging-gardens in Italy, so refreshing and voluptuous in the summer evenings; this of the Alcazar is exactly such another; several parterres, surrounded by galleries and terraces, intersected by myrtle hedges and jasmine bowers, and perfumed by clumps of orange-trees, have also the advantage of abundance of water. A large party of sprightly damsels and young men that were walking here, were much indebted to us for making the water-works play, by means of a small bribe to the keeper. Nothing can be more delicious than these sprinklings in a hot day; all the flowers seemed to acquire new vigour,
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the odours, exhaled from the orange, citron, and lemon-trees, grew more poignant, more balsamic, and the company ten times more alive than they were; it was a true April shower. We sauntered near two hours in the groves, till we were quite in extasy with sweets. 'Tis a most heavenly residence in spring; and I should think the summer heats might be tempered and rendered supportable enough, by the profusion of water that they enjoy at Seville.

Philip the Fifth resided here many years, and passed his time in drawing with the smoke of a candle on deal boards, or angling for tench in a little reservoir.

On our first entrance into the palace, which is a *pasticcio* of Saracenic, Conventual, and Grecian architecture, I was much taken with the principal front of the inner-court; a piece of as good Morisco work as any I had yet seen. Having read that the Moors built one part of this palace, I concluded I was admiring something as old as the Mahometan kings of Seville; but upon closer examination was not a little surprized to find *lions, castles*, and other armorial ensigns of Castille and Leon, interwoven with the Arabesque foliages; and still more so, to see, in large Gothic characters, an inscription informing me, that these edifices were built in the fourteenth century, by the most mighty king of Castille and Leon, Don Pedro.

Within

Within this portico is a court ninety-three feet by sixty-nine: it is flagged with marble, and surrounded with a colonnade of white marble columns of the Corinthian order, elegantly proportioned, and well executed; the walls behind are covered with grotesque designs in the Moorish taste: Charles the Fifth has contrived to foist his eagle and his *plus oultre* into every corner. The great hall adjoining, called the *Media naranja*, or half-orange, from the form of its cupola, is richly gilt and stuccoed in the same manner. Here I own, my little knowledge of architecture was fairly nonplussed; I was convinced that the portion of the fabric, called by the travel-writers the *Moorish part*, was the work of Peter the Cruel, who might easily procure skilful artists from the kings of Granada, with whom he was connected most part of his reign; but there was no accounting for the Corinthian pillars, unless I supposed them to have belonged to some Roman edifice, destroyed for the sake of supplying materials for the palace, or to have been placed by the emperor under the old gallery, in lieu of others in a barbarous style or ruinous state. Next to the court of the lions in the Alhambra, this square is the most pleasing piece of Arabic building I have met with, though in delicacy of design and execution, the ornaments of the Sevillian are much inferior to those of the Granadine palace.

Near

Near the western entrance was formerly to be seen a stone seat, with its canopy supported by four pillars, all now destroyed. Here that severe judge, Don Pedro, sat to decide causes, and give sentence upon malefactors. His justice was so very inflexible, that in those days of feudal anarchy, it was looked upon in the light of wanton cruelty and tyranny; perhaps that unfortunate monarch owes to the hatred of those he meant to reduce to order, much of the obloquy which has been so plentifully bestowed upon him by historians, who have painted him to us as a tyrant so bloody, so wicked, as almost to exceed the bounds of probability. In Andalusia, where he fixed his residence, and seemed most to delight, his memory is not held in the same abhorrence. The Sevillian writers speak of him very differently; and instead of his usual appellation of *Pedro el cruel*, distinguish him by that of *El Justiciero*. It is certain that his bastard-brother and murderer, Henry of Transmare, was guilty of crimes full as atrocious as any of those imputed to Don Pedro; but as he destroyed him, his family, and adherents, the friends of the new spurious race of monarchs were left at full liberty to blacken the characters of the adverse party, without fear of being called to an account for calumny, or even contradicted. Truth is now out of our reach; and for want of proper proofs to the contrary, we must sit down contented with
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what history has left us, and allow Don Pedro to have been one of the most inhuman butchers that ever disgraced a throne.

We devoted this morning to an excursion in search of the ruins of Italica, where Trajan, Hadrian, and Theodosius the Great, are supposed to have been born; a search it may most properly be called, for we wandered a long league wide of the mark, but had no reason to be sorry for the mistake, whatever our Catalan running-footman might think of the matter. We took too much to the left, after crossing the river on the bridge of boats, and strayed along the walls of a convent, where the monks were felling the lemons of their gardens through a hole in the wall. The wind was rather brisk, and wafted such perfumes from the orange-groves, as almost lulled us to sleep; the meadows and corn-fields that we rode through were delightful, as rich and luxuriant as any I ever saw in Flanders. On our right hand a range of orange-gardens perfumed the breeze before it reached us; and on the left the Guadalquivir ran winding through the plain. Our soft reveries were disturbed by a full stop, that our runner Christoval made at a gully, where a brook falls into a river. It could only be passed on foot, as there was no bridge but a few yawning planks, on which our horses, however willing, could not pretend to find a footing; this obliged us to dismount,

dismount, and send our horses round half a league to join us at the ruins of Italica, which we thought appeared very conspicuous upon a hill before us. The sun was hot, but the spirit of antiquarianism gave us strength and courage to climb up to the platform of Saint John de Alfarache. After sitting awhile to take breath under some arborjudas in full flower, we proceeded to explore every corner of the crown of the hill; it is almost square, inclosed with the ruins of vast towers and bulwarks, built of cemented mud and pebbles. From the knowledge I had acquired of the different modes of building, since I came into the south of Spain, I ventured to pronounce, that if this was Italica, the Moors had built upon the site, and antiquaries were grossly mistaken when they talked of Roman edifices and amphitheatres; not but what I thought the situation such, as the judicious Romans might have preferred to that of Hispalis, the present Seville, both for beauty and strength. The view from it over that city, the course of the river, and the rich plain, are worth more than the labour it cost us to get so high: at this blooming season of the year, when every thing is in full vegetation, green and fresh, I don't remember to have seen a finer country.

An old peasant set my heart at ease (for I confess I was a little out of humour, as every disappointed

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virtuoso would have been) by informing us that this was a Moorish castle, ¹⁶ and that Sevilla Vieja, or old Seville (the name they give to Italica) was a little beyond a great church of Hieronymites, a league to the north in the skirts of the plain. Our error once discovered, we trotted away through the flats to that convent, and there picked up a fellow without shirt or stockings, with a patched cloak, white hat, and long black beard; which gentleman undertook to shew us the antiquities.

Of the ancient colony of Italica, supposed to have been composed by Scipio of his veteran soldiers, scarce the least vestige remains. It is said the Moors destroyed it, not to have a rival so near Seville, where they intended to fix the seat of their empire; but I doubt this is the mere surmise of some modern historian. I could not positively ascertain it, but from a view of the ground, am apt to believe it was built in imitation of Rome, on seven hills, and that the river B etis ran at the foot of them. By accidental obstructions and banks of sand, accumulated in a long series of inundations, the river may have been driven from its ancient bed, and forced more into the heart of the plain, where it

¹⁶ After the loss of Seville, the Moors are said to have remained some time at Alfarache, under the government of a kind of king.

now

now takes its course. Such an event as this would account for the ruin of so considerable a city as Italica; and without supposing that the Saracens were at the pains of demolishing it, would afford sufficient cause for giving the preference to Seville, which stands upon the Guadalquivir.

On the summit of the first hill are some ruinous brick walls, called *El Palacio*, not in the least remarkable. The peasants that were here at work in the olive-yards, told us, that underneath there had formerly been found columns of silver and brass; but as they were bewitched by some magician, nobody was ever able to draw them up; and now-a-days, not a soul has the courage even to dig for them, as they have all the reason in the world to believe, that the conjurer would twist their heads off for attempting it. This is a popular superstition, which I have found to be common to most countries, wherever any great remains of vaults and ancient edifices are to be seen.

On the most distant eminence are considerable ruins of an amphitheatre, built with pebbles, and brick arches; most probably the marble casing has been carried away, or destroyed by burning to lime. The form is a most perfect oval; the arena measures, as near as the corn would allow me to be exact, one hundred yards in its greatest length, and sixty in its greatest breadth;

some of the vomitoria, cells, and passages, are yet discernible, but scarce any traces of the seats; however I made out twenty rows, two feet six inches wide, and two feet high; each step of the stairs of communication is one foot high and one wide. This amphitheatre is now more like Stonehenge than a regular Roman edifice¹⁷.

Not far from it is a fine pool of water, in a large vault under the hill; which I take to be the remains of some aqueduct, as the water is too warm to be near the spring head.

Being very hot and hungry, we made the best of our way home through large plantations of orange-trees, which here grow to the size of moderate timber trees; the fruit is much more pleasing to the eye, if less so to the palate, than the oranges of Portugal, as the rich blood-colour is admirably contrasted with the bright tint of the leaves.

¹⁷ The corporation of Seville, having occasion for stones to embank the river, which, by its frequent inundations, caused great damage to the city, ordered the amphitheatre of Italica to be knocked down. Many hands were employed to batter the walls, and to blow up with gunpowder such parts as resisted the pick-ax. By these means they procured sufficient materials for their embankment; but, as if the Guadalquivir meant to revenge the cause of taste upon these barbarians, the very first flood swept away the whole fabric.

LETTER XXXII.

Seville, April 11, 1776.

SEVILLE is supposed to have been founded by the Phenicians, who gave it the name of Hispalis: the Romans called it Julia; in after-ages the old name returned, and after a variety of corruptions, seems to have been revived in the modern appellation of Sebilla, or Sevilla, for the Spaniards use both indiscriminately.

Under the Roman government, it was embellished with many magnificent buildings, destined for purposes of public utility and amusement; but I believe the very ruins of those edifices have long ago disappeared.

The Gothic kings resided here before they removed their court to Toledo.

Musa, the Saracen viceroy, took Seville by storm, soon after the victory obtained at Xeres over king Rodrigo.

In the general confusion that ensued upon the downfall of the kingdom of Cordova, in 1027, Seville became an independent sovereignty, which was annihilated by the violence of the African prince Jusuf Almoravides, who came into Spain in 1097.

Ferdinand

Ferdinand the third, king of Castille, (who, in consideration of his great success against the Mahometans, as well as for his sanctity, was canonized after his death, and is still honoured as a saint of the first rank) took Cordova, and many other important places, from the enfeebled, disunited Mussulmen; drove them from post to post, till he reduced the bounds of their empire to a very confined corner of the peninsula; after a year's siege he forced Seville to open its gates to him, and acknowledge his sway. Three hundred thousand Moors are said to have left the city upon the capitulation, and to have carried their arms and industry to such countries, as were still obedient to the law of Mahomet. It is difficult to conceive how Seville could continue to be a great and populous town after such an emigration; yet we find it in a few years enlarged, adorned with new buildings, the chief of which was the cathedral, and long enjoying the rank of one of the most considerable cities in Spain.

Its most brilliant epocha was soon after the discovery of America, when all the new-found treasures were poured into Europe from the fleets that returned from the new hemisphere into the Guadalquivir, and made Seville the magazine of its invaluable productions. The sovereign frequently honoured this place with his presence; merchants from all parts flocked hither to open
houses

houses of commerce, or to provide themselves with goods for foreign markets; the sailors and adventurers of the Indian fleets rendezvoused here, and with wanton prodigality lavished the wealth, which they had acquired in America. Then indeed was the time, when the Spaniard cried out in the fullness of his heart, *Quien no a visto Sevilla, no a visto maravilla*¹⁸. Its court was then the most splendid in Europe; its streets were thronged with an immense concourse of people; its river was crowded with ships, and its keys covered with bales of precious merchandize. Great were the buildings begun, and still vaster the projects for future ones. Its prosperity seemed proof against the fickleness of fortune; but in the course of a very few years, it fell from the highest pitch of grandeur to solitude and poverty, by the danger and embarrassments in the navigation of the Guadalquivir. The superior excellence of the port of Cadiz, induced government to order the Galeons to be stationed there for the time to come.

The shape of Seville is circular, without any great rising in the whole space. The walls seem of Moorish construction, or of the ages which immediately followed the dissolution of the Saracen empire; as I guess by their form and materials. The ditch is filled up in

¹⁸ He that has not seen Seville, has not seen the wonder of the world.

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many places. The circumference of the walls is not more than five miles and an half. The suburb of Triana, on the west side of the river, is as large as many towns, but remarkable for nothing but its gloomy Gothic castle, where, in 1482, the inquisition formed its first establishment in Spain.

The streets of Seville are crooked, dirty, and so narrow, that in most of them two coaches find it difficult to pass a-breast. The widest and handsomest place is the Alameda, or great walk of old elms, in the heart of the city ; it is six hundred yards by one hundred and fifty, decorated with three fountains, and the statues of Hercules, the reputed founder, and Julius Cæsar, the restorer of Seville.

Most of the churches are built and ornamented in so barbarous a style, that I had not the patience to examine them ; the cathedral, the capuchins, and the charidad, are the only sacred edifices really interesting ; the first by its antiquity, size, and reputation ; the two latter by the chef-d'œuvres of Murillo.

The cathedral is more cried up than I think it deserves ; it is by no means equal to York minster, for lightness, elegance, and Gothic delicacy. The clustered pillars are too thick, the ailes too narrow, and the choir, by being placed in the center, spoils the whole coup d'œil, and renders the rest of the church little better than
a heap

a heap of long passages. The ornamental parts, commonly said to be after the Gothic manner, seem rather to be clumsy imitations of the models left by the Moors. Not one of the great entrances or porches is finished; and to disfigure the whole pile, a long range of buildings, in the modern style, has been added on to the old part.

Don Sancho the Brave began this church, near the close of the thirteenth century; and John the Second finished it about an hundred years after. Its length within is four hundred and twenty feet; its breadth two hundred and seventy-three; and its greatest height one hundred and twenty-six. The circumference of each cluster of pillars is forty-two feet. It has nine doors, eighty windows, and eighty altars, at which five hundred masses are said every day. The pavement is brick, but they are now new-laying it with marble. The great gate of the cloysters, (the only remains of the mosque) is a piece of handsome Moorish architecture. The large orange-trees that shade the fountains in the middle of the cloysters, make them a most agreeable walk. At one angle stands the Giralda, or belfry, a tower three hundred and fifty feet high, and fifty square: the Moors erected it about the year 1000: the Christians have added two stories, and a prodigious weathercock, which, altogether, agree much better with the ancient

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building

building than patchwork is wont to do : the sculpture of the Saracenic part, which is two hundred feet high, is in a much simpler taste than their artists were accustomed to display in public works. The effect of this tower rising far above every edifice in Seville, is extremely noble. Tradition relates, that to form a solid foundation for it, the Moors made a deep hole, into which they cast all the marble and stone monuments of the Romans that could be found : when repairs have been necessary, and the ground has been opened near the bottom, many broken ornaments and inscriptions have been discovered. The whole work is brick and mortar ; a winding stair-case is contrived within, so easy and wide, as to admit of two horsemen riding a-breast, above half way up. For some purpose, unknown to us, the architect has made the solid masonry in the upper half, just as thick again as that in the lower, though on the outside the belfry is all the way of the same dimensions.

Murillo has adorned the charidad and capuchins with several most valuable pictures, which may be ranked among his very best performances ; his manner puts me much in mind of Guercino : the design of his hands and arms is generally faulty, as he gives them rather too great a length ; there is such expression, such truth of colouring, and intelligence, in the composition of his
groupes,

groupes, that a trifling defect of that kind is easily overlooked.

In the first of those churches, Saint Elizabeth, queen of Hungary, curing some lepers, and other diseased persons, by anointing them with holy oil, is an admirable picture ; there is an old woman, and a boy under the hand of the saint, full of truth, character, and expression. In the representation of Moses striking the rock, are several excellent figures, and a very beautiful white horse.

In the church of the capuchins, out of many of his pictures, which hang in every chapel on each side, those that gave me most pleasure, were a Saint Anthony of Padua, holding the infant Jesus on a book ; a friar embracing Christ crucified, who stoops from the cross, and brings down an arm to press the saint's shoulder ; an adoration of the shepherds ; and Saint Thomas of Villanova, archbishop of Valencia, distributing alms at his palace-gate ; which last I like the best of the whole collection.

In our way to this church, which stands without the walls, we looked into many others ; but found nothing particular in any, except in one, a list of the books lately condemned by the inquisition ; among many others we saw the famous *Fray Gerundio* by father Isla ; some common French books relative to geography ; some

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of Voltaire's late publications ; and the political history of the European settlements, by Raynal, prohibited not only as favouring of deism and infidelity, but also as containing many passages derogatory to the glory of the Spanish nation.

We returned by the great road round the walls, passing near the gate and tower where Saint Hermenegild was put to death by order of his father Leovigild, king of the Goths, for deserting arianism, and for raising an unsuccessful rebellion against him.

Further on we walked under the Caños de Carmona, or the great aqueduct ; which is esteemed by the Sevillian historians, one of the most wonderful monuments of antiquity existing in the universe. We were much disappointed to find none of that beauty or grandeur they talk so much of ; on the contrary, it is rather ugly, its arches unequal, the architecture neglected, and its direction very crooked. The conduit is so leaky, that a rivulet is formed of the waste water. Authors are divided in their opinions concerning this aqueduct ; whether to look upon it as a Roman, or as a Moorish work. I believe it was originally planned and built by the former ; but the innumerable repairs it has undergone have almost obliterated every trace of their manner : however, what it wants in shew, it certainly makes up for in utility ; it conveys a very abundant supply of
water

water, several leagues from a place called Alcalá. The rocks are there bored, in various directions, an immense length of way under ground, in order to intercept every little runner, and collect so considerable a stream as to turn several mills, and bring such a volume of water down to Seville, that almost every house in town has the benefit of it; except those of the quarters, which are supplied by the pipes from the fountain of the archbishop.

We re-entered the city at the new gate, which forms an elegant termination to a handsome street of regular houses one story high, behind the Alcazar. The snuff manufactory is situated in this street: for the more convenient carrying on this lucrative branch of commerce, Ferdinand the Sixth erected a most magnificent, roomy palace, in a grand but rather heavy style of architecture. It was finished in 1756. One thousand men are employed constantly, at the rate of six or four reals per diem, for about nine hours work. One hundred and eighty mules work twenty-eight mills or machines for grinding and mixing the tobacco with the red earth of Almazarron; the excessive adulteration with this earth, practised of late years by the directors, has occasioned a prodigious falling off in the exportation of this commodity, and unless they alter their method, the trade will soon be confined to Spain and its dominions; the northern markets have long refused to take any off their hands.

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hands. The leaves of the tobacco are imported from Cuba and the Brasils; the best snuff is called *Grance*. Thirty-two reals a pound is the current price of the snuff, but none is allowed to be sold by retail in the manufactory. We visited every part of the house, at the hazard of being suffocated; in one room we found four hundred and sixty men sitting at work, making *cigarros*¹⁹, and tying them up in bunches worth four reals a-piece, for each of which they are paid for their labour four quartos. The officer that attended us, told us that the neat profits of last year, upon all the snuff and tobacco sold out at the office, amounted to more than six millions of dollars.

Near the cathedral is the *Lonja*, or exchange, formerly a place of great resort, but now, being deserted by merchants, it is appropriated to other uses; I believe, to the holding of some inferior courts of justice. The building is square, its style plain and noble, and it remains a monument of the good taste of the Spaniards at that brilliant period of their history, which takes in the reign of Charles the Fifth, and of his son Philip. The *Lonja* was erected in 1583, upon a design of Juan de Herrera.

¹⁹ These are little rolls of tobacco, which the Spaniards smoke without a pipe.

Olavides,

Olavides, the present Intendant, is said to have great schemes for the embellishment of Seville; but as he is likewise director of all the new colonies in the Sierra Morena, and not upon the most solid footing at court, I doubt he has more projects in hand and in idea, than he can possibly bring to bear, during the time he may probably remain in power ²⁰.

His present operation, is to embank with a strong brick wall, the bed of the river above the town, thereby to turn off the impetuous currents, that have so often burst their way into the very heart of the city. Along the banks he has planted avenues of an ever-green tree, very like a poplar. It was brought from South America, and is called *Sapota*.

The great hospital de la Sangre, and the college of Sant Elmo, founded for a marine school, are more remarkable for their size than for any other merit; the other buildings are little worthy of notice. The police of this city is very severe, but perhaps not uniformly and impartially so. My man has been a day and a night in prison, only for carrying my pistols through the streets to the gunsmith's. There has been as much writing as would do for a moderate suit in chancery,

²⁰ In 1776 he was taken up and imprisoned in the dungeons of the inquisition, where he will probably end his days.

but

but it seems to be cheap enough, as I believe the value of a guinea will procure his release, and pay the fees as well as the expences of the procedures.

LETTER XXXIII.

Eccija, April 12, 1778.

HAVING seen every thing in Seville that was recommended to our notice, we left it yesterday, and came to lie at Carmona; the road is through a perfect forest of olive-trees, which are much hacked and pruned, and set at the regular distance of twenty-seven feet asunder.

Carmona is a large town, standing boldly on a high hill. Its castle, in ruins, covers a vast extent of ground, and contains many buildings that served for palace and fortrefs to Don Pedro the Cruel, and his family. He placed his main hope in the strength of this castle, and in the faithful attachment of Don Martin Lopes de Cordova, grand-master of the order of Calatrava, to whose care he entrusted his sons Sancho and Diego, whom he had had by a lady he had taken to his bed, after

after the death of his famous mistress, Maria de Padilla. Henry of Tránsamare, after the defeat and murder of Pedro in the plains of Montiel, laid siege to Carmona, took it by capitulation, together with the children and treasures of the late king, and basely breaking his word of honour, caused Lopez to be beheaded for his obstinate resistance.

Like every place in this province, Carmona makes a figure in Roman history, and has many remains of their walls, inscriptions, &c. to shew as proofs of its ancient importance. The country about it is hilly and champaign, but far from unpleasant, as it is all green, and has some wood and water in different parts of the view. We dined to-day at the solitary venta of Monclova, and rode on hither to get a sight of the town, but it proved farther off than we imagined, and it was dark before we got in. We were obliged to leave the carriage with our baggage at Carmona, to get the axletree mended, and hitherto we have had no tidings of it, so shall lie down in our cloaths on a few chairs.

The road from Seville hither, is better than any I have seen in Spain, some of the new road near Barcelona excepted; it is all gravel, which not being the soil of the country, must have been brought from a great distance, and has subsisted in all probability, unaltered and unrepaired since the Moors were driven out of

Andalusía; it is raised above the level of the fields, and commonly runs in a direct line from west to east. As there are no visible remains of pavement, I rather attribute it to the Saracens than to the Romans, although both nations are known to have attended particularly to the highways of this province, and to have made several causeways and roads of communication between the great towns.

We passed through La Luifiana, a tract of land lately put into cultivation by a colony of Germans, who have their habitations not far from the side of the highway, placed at regular distances of two or three hundred yards, all built after one simple model, with an allotment of corn-land round the house: this is the most western of the new settlements.

Eccija seems prettily situated upon the river Xenil, and to have some pleasant walks, and an astonishing number of steeples.

Cordova, April 14th.

Yesterday we dined at La Carlotta, another plantation of Germans of great extent, made eight years ago, in a hilly forest. The houses are scattered about. The parish church, inn, director's house, some shops and dwelling houses for handicraft men, form a very neat village on an eminence: as they have left standing all
the

the evergreen oaks of any tolerable size, the face of the country is very handsome, the green corn being chequered with groves, clump, and single trees. About twenty or thirty acres is an allotment for a family, under the obligation of remaining on the spot ten years; during which period, they are subject to no taxes of any kind. At the expiration of the term, if they choose to settle here, the land is made over to them in fee, and they commence payment of a small quit-rent. The king furnishes them with seed corn, but they are obliged to replace it in his granaries after harvest; except the walls of a house, and some trifling instruments of husbandry, this is all the encouragement they meet with; and as this is by no means a sufficient help, and much of the soil is poor and hungry, and falls off at every crop, there is great reason to apprehend, that this colony will prove one of those ephemeral productions that so often spring up in monarchical governments, and almost immediately after birth, sink into their original nothing. Some hundreds of the Germans have died since the establishment, through poverty, intemperance, bad food, and change of climate.

The country, as you approach Cordova, is all bare, hilly, and arable. The view of the river, city, and woods, on the opposite hills, is extremely agreeable and picturesque.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Cordova, April 15th, 1776.

WE have ferreted out the few things in this city, that can be accounted worthy of any attention from a traveller; have ridden up and down the environs as often as the weather would permit, and have studied the mosque by day-light, and by torch-light; but still this temple is so intricate a labyrinth, and contains so many extraordinary things, that I shall take one or two farther surveys of it before I attempt to describe it. The abundance of subject-matter, and its celebrity, will entitle it to figure in a letter apart. This shall be dedicated to objects of less importance, and when I shall have informed you of the present state of the town, it will be proper to select for you, from the best author I have by me, some curious particulars relative to its ancient history.

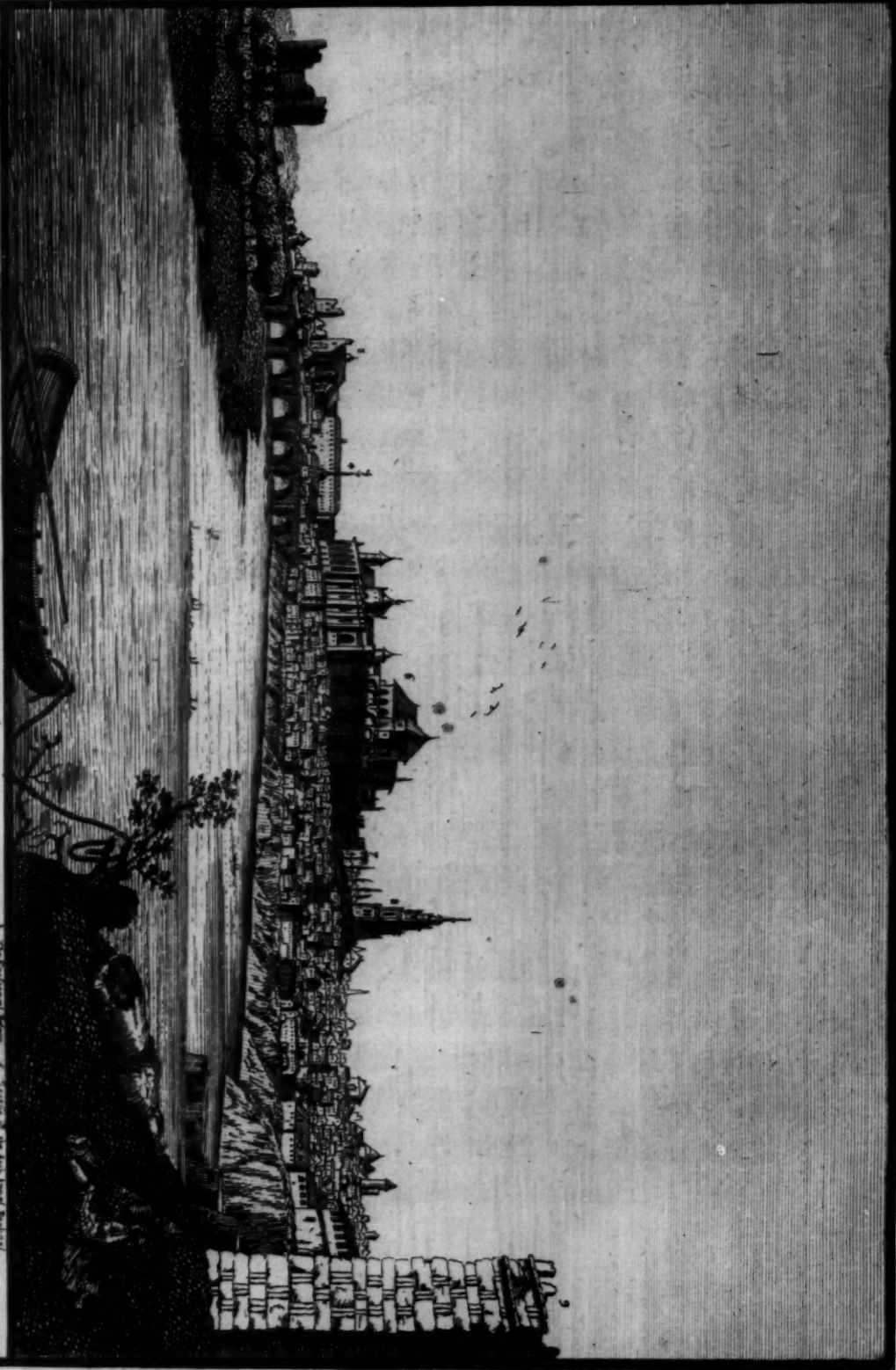
The environs are delightful, and enjoy a rich variety of woods, hillocks, and culture, vivified by abundance of limpid water. The flat land produces olives and corn, and much of it is laid out in gardens, where the fruit-trees grow to a remarkable size, and seem perfectly

1. The Episcopal Palace.
 2. The Cathedral.
 3. The Bridge.
 4. The Mosque, now the Convent.
 5. The Mill.

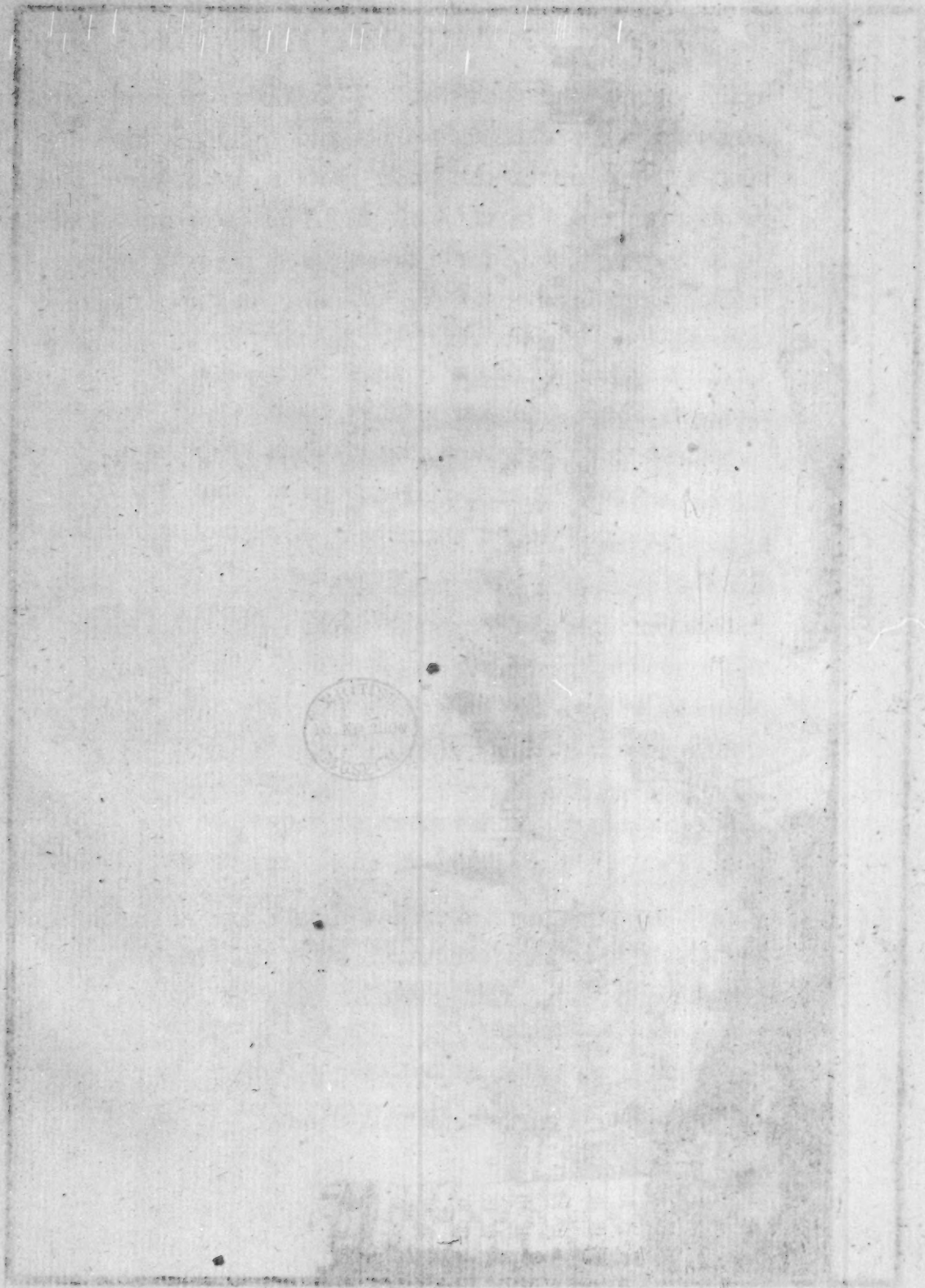
6. The Episcopal Palace.
 7. The Cathedral.
 8. The Bridge.
 9. The Mosque, now the Convent.
 10. The Mill.

CORDOVA

1. The Episcopal Palace.
 2. The Cathedral.
 3. The Bridge.
 4. The Mosque, now the Convent.
 5. The Mill.



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5



fectly clean and healthy. The upper-grounds are over-run with evergreen oaks and pines, which the farmers grub up in the good spots to plant olive and carob bean trees in their stead. The farm houses are built in the midst of inclosures and orchards of orange-trees. Corn-land is let for so many measures of corn, either a fixed number for each harvest, or an indefinite quantity according to the crops; the highlands are all let out at a certain rent in cash.

The Guadalquivir runs before the town, which it has worn into a perfect half moon. A bridge of sixteen arches, defended by a large Moorish tower, leads from the south into Cordova, and near the end of the bridge stands the mosque, now the cathedral. The walls of the town are in many places just as the Romans left them; the method they have followed here in laying the stones is rather different from what I have observed in other Roman edifices. Here each long square stone is terminated and flanked by two thin ones set up an end.

The streets are crooked and dirty; few of the public or private buildings conspicuous for their architecture; the new hospital for the education of orphans, has something bold and simply noble in its cupola and portico. The palaces of the inquisition and of the bishop are extensive, and well situated.

We

We are just returned from a bullfeast, where no horsemen were allowed, as the animals were not of a breed sufficiently noble to try the lance upon. One poor bull that would not fight, was very dexterously run through the heart; two oxen were tormented a little, and then sent to the adjoining shambles; and a small cow, after behaving mighty well as to jumping and skipping, got a reprieve in consideration of her excessive leanness. It was too tiresome even to make us laugh, but we are in hopes of seeing this exhibition in greater perfection at Aranjuez. The motive of this paltry spectacle is extremely laudable. The Corregidor (i. e. the triennial governor of the town, always a native of a different part of Spain from that wherein he is appointed to superintend the police) gives these little shews to the people on Sundays and festivals; and out of the profits and hire of the seats, raises a sum sufficient to carry on the new walk he is laying out under the walls.

After the entertainment, the nobility paraded about in their coaches; and I was surprized to see such elegance as I little expected in an inland town in Spain; very handsome English and French carriages, smart liveries, and excellent horses. The nobility of this place live in a manner not to be met with any where else in the kingdom; if their union and mutual emulation in
rendering

rendering society agreeable be such as they are represented to me, they deserve the highest encomiums from every lover of humanity: thirty families or more, meet every night at a house chosen by rotation, where the ladies do the honours of genteel refreshments, merry good-natured conversation, and some low card-playing. The general run of the women seems to be handsome; some we saw on the walks were extremely beautiful. We have been much pressed to frequent the assemblies; but as the weather is so uncertain, we keep ourselves ready in our boots and great coats, in order to seize every fair moment to get out and see the town and country.

Having thus marked out the little that modern Cordova has to shew, give me leave to carry you back to more remote times; to a period, when it figured to much greater advantage on the theatre of politics and commerce. This is not to be fixed at the time of its being a Roman colony²², though it boasts of having given birth to Seneca and Lucan; nor in the ages during which it acknowledged the dominion of the Goths. To the Saracen Caliphs of the Ommiad family, Cordova is indebted for its glory; as we hear but little of it be-

²² Strabo says, that Corduba was founded by Marcellus, and was the first Roman colony established in Spain. Its Latin appellation was *Patricia*.

fore the year 755, when Abdoulrahman, only heir-male of the Ommiad line, passed over from Africa, at the head of a few desperate followers, and found means to raise a rebellion in Spain. After a battle fought on the banks of the Guadalquivir, in which he overthrew the lieutenant of the Abassid Caliph of Damascus, Abdoulrahman became king of all the Moorish possessions in the south of Spain, and in 759 fixed his royal residence at Cordova.

Then began those flourishing ages of Arabian gallantry and magnificence, which rendered the Moors of Spain superior to all their contemporaries in arts and arms, and made Cordova one of the most splendid cities of the world. Agriculture and commerce prospered under the happy sway of this hero; and the face of the country was changed from a scene of desolation, which the long wars and harsh government of the viceroys had brought on, into a most populous flourishing state, exceeding in riches, number of inhabitants, activity, and industry, any prior or subsequent era of the Spanish history. He added new fortifications to the town, built himself a magnificent palace with delicious gardens, laid causeways through the marshes, made excellent roads to open a ready communication between the great towns, and in 786 began the great mosque, which he did not live to finish.

During

During the course of two centuries, this court continued to be the resort of all professors of the polite arts, and of such as valued themselves upon their military and knightly accomplishments; while the rest of Europe was buried in ignorance, debased by brutality of manners, or distracted by superstitious disputes. England, weakened by its Heptarchy, was too inconsiderable even to be mentioned in the political history of the times; France, though it had a gleam of reputation under Charlemagne, was still a barbarous unpolished nation; and Italy was in utter confusion, the frequent revolutions and change of masters rendering it impossible for learning, or any thing good, to acquire a permanent footing in so unstable a soil; Greece, though still in possession of the arts and luxury of ancient Rome, had lost all vigour, and seemed absorbed in the most futile of all pursuits; viz. that of scholastic argument, and religious subtilties.

The residence of the Ommiad Caliphs, was long conspicuous for its supreme magnificence, and the crowds of learned men, who were allured to it by the protection offered by its sovereigns, the beauty of the country, the wholesomeness of the climate, and the variety of pleasures that returned incessantly in one enchanting round.

Cordova became the center of politeness, industry,
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and genius. Tilts and tournaments, with other costly shews, were long the darling pastimes of a wealthy happy people; and this was the only kingdom in the west, where geometry, astronomy, and phyfic, were regularly studied and practised; music was no less honoured, for I find that in 844, a famous musician, called Ali Zeriab, came to settle at Cordova, and formed several pupils, who were supposed to equal the most celebrated performers that were ever known, even in the east. That architecture was greatly encouraged, we need no other proof than the great and expensive fabrics undertaken and completed by many of these Spanish monarchs: whatever faults may be justly condemned in their manner by the connoisseur, accustomed to the chaste noble graces of the Grecian proportions; certainly nobody can behold what remains of these Moorish edifices, without being strongly impressed with a high idea of the genius of the artists, as well as the grandeur of the prince who carried their plans into execution.

These Sultans not only gave the most distinguished protection to arts and sciences, and to the persons learned in any of them, but were themselves eminently versed in various branches of knowledge. Alkehem the second, collected so immense a quantity of manuscripts, that before the end of his reign, the royal library contained

tained no less than six hundred thousand volumes, of which the very catalogue filled forty huge folios. The university of Cordova was founded by him, and under such favourable auspices, rose to the highest pitch of celebrity.

Abdoulrahman was succeeded by his son Hiffem; whose passion for glory and architecture was not in the least inferior to that of his father. He put the finishing hand to the mosque, which the plunder of the southern provinces of France enabled him to complete in the course of a few years. Several historians have represented the terror of his name so great, that the inhabitants of the Narbonne, in order to purchase peace and liberty, agreed to transport from their city to Cordova, all materials necessary for the construction of the mosque. This story is hardly credible; Mariana supposes it to have been a sort of fine sand proper for mixing with lime, that the Narbonnese engaged to carry; but if there be any truth in the affair, I should imagine it to be more probable, that they furnished him with columns and other monuments of antiquity, which Narbonne abounded with, and which were undoubtedly employed in great quantities in the building of the mosque. The bridge over the Guadalquivir was a work of Hiffem's, after his own plans.

Alkahem succeeded Hiffem.

Abdoulrahman the second was also passionately fond

of building. He was the first that brought supplies of water to Cordova, by means of leaden pipes laid upon aqueducts of stone. The quantity was so considerable, that every part of the palace, the mosques, baths, squares, and public edifices, had all of them their fountains constantly playing. A great many of these works still subsist. He paved the whole city, and erected several mosques.

After him reigned Mahomet Almundar, Abdallah, and Abdoulrahman the third, who surpassed all his predecessors in splendour, riches, and expence. His subjects vied with each other in profusion and magnificence. I cannot give you a greater proof of the prodigious opulence and grandeur of the Arabians in the tenth century, than by enumerating the presents made to this prince by Aboumelik, named in 938 to the post of grand vizir. He caused to be brought before the throne, and laid at the feet of his master,

Four hundred pounds of virgin gold.

Lingots of silver to the value of 4,20,000 zequins.

Four hundred pound of lignum aloes, one piece weighing one hundred and forty pounds.

Five hundred ounces of ambergrease.

Three hundred ounces of camphire.

Thirty pieces of gold tissue, so rich that none but the

Caliph could wear it.

Ten suits of Khorassan sables.

One

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One hundred suits of fur of a less valuable sort.

Forty-eight sets of gold and silk long trappings for horses.

Four thousand pounds of silk.

Thirty Persian carpets.

Eight hundred iron coats of mail for war horses.

One thousand shields.

One hundred thousand arrows.

Fifteen led horses of Arabia, as richly caparisoned as those the Caliph was wont to ride.

One hundred horses of an inferior price.

Twenty mules with all their accoutrements.

Forty young men, and twenty girls of exquisite beauty, and most sumptuously decked out.

This display of riches was accompanied with a most flattering poem, composed by the minister in praise of his sovereign, who in return for this homage, assigned him a pension of an hundred thousand pieces of gold.

Abdoulrahman built a new town " three miles from Cordova, called Zehra or Arizapha, from the name of his favourite mistress. The palace was erected upon the plans of the most celebrated architect of Constantinople, at that time the best school and nursery of

" Supposed to have been at a place called Cordova la Vieja. There is nothing but a few ruins to support the conjecture.

artists in the world. In this edifice, were one thousand one hundred and fourteen columns of African and Spanish marble, nineteen of Italian, and one hundred and fourteen of most exquisite workmanship, a present of the Greek emperor. The richness of the state-room exceeded the bounds of credibility. The walls were incrustured with marble, inlaid with golden foliages : in the middle was a marble basin surrounded with various figures of animals spouting water ; all these statues were gilt and enriched with precious stones : the basin was cut at Constantinople, and the figures were esteemed the master-pieces of the most expert sculptors of that city. Above the fountain, hung a famous pearl which the emperor Leo had sent to Abdoulrahman. The other apartments of the palace fell little short of this hall in magnificence. The most retired part was allotted to his wives, concubines, slaves, and black eunuchs, in all six thousand. Over the principal entrance, in open defiance of the express mandate of the prophet, stood the statue of the fair Sultana, who gave her name to this new city, now become the constant residence of the court. Here the emperor was wont to take the diversion of hunting, attended by twelve thousand horsemen, accoutred with belts and scimitars, imbossed with gold. At his return from the chace, he usually retired to rest himself in a splendid pavillion erected

erected in the middle of the gardens, overlooking all the adjacent country. This banquetting house was supported by columns of the whitest marble; the gilding and painting of the ceiling vied with the precious stones scattered over it; and in the center was a vase, in which quicksilver supplied the place of water; it shook with every motion of the room, and reflected the rays of the sun, which were admitted through some holes contrived in the roof.

You will no doubt be backward in crediting these relations; and the inconceivable expence this prince must have been at in these undertakings, will be apt to stagger your belief. The town of Zehra, with the palace and gardens, cost him for twenty-five years, the annual sum of three hundred thousand dinars²³; add to this, the vast sums requisite for the maintenance of a seraglio of six thousand persons, a most numerous household, a guard of twelve thousand lancemen, and an incredible number of horses, and it can scarce be conceived where he could find revenues sufficient to answer such prodigious demands. All his life he kept on foot, and frequently sent into the field, very powerful armies. The salaries of the governors of provinces,

²³ Reckoning the dinar at 9s. 2d. the annual expence amounts to £.137,500 and in twenty-five years, this makes the sum of £.3.437,500 sterling.

towns,

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towns, and forts; of the administrators of justice; the repairs of the fortified places, and the current outgoings of a formidable regular marine establishment, are objects of such expence, that it is easier to wonder than to believe, how they could be satisfied. But upon taking a review of the opulence of Spain at that epocha, of its trade, population, tributes, and taxes; that astonishment which we must be seized with, on the hearing of these accounts, will in a great measure subside.

The Moors were then masters of all the richest provinces of Spain, populous to an excess. In Cordova alone, they reckoned two hundred thousand houses, six hundred mosques, and nine hundred public baths ²³.

The Arabian historian, from whom the present detail is taken, informs us, that in his time there were in Spain ²⁴ eighty large cities, three hundred of the second order, and that the number of villages and hamlets was not to be counted; upon the banks of the Guadalquivir, were no less than twelve thousand villages; a traveller, in the course of a day's journey, met with

²³ In all probability, most of these houses were very inconsiderable huts of one room, as the Moors never dwelt more than one family under the same roof.

²⁴ It does not appear from his account, whether he means the whole peninsula or only the portion of it subject to the Saracens.

three or four considerable towns, and could not travel an hour without coming to a hamlet.

The revenues of the Ommiad caliphs in the time of Abdoulrahman the third, amounted annually to twelve million nine hundred and forty-five thousand dinars, or about five millions five hundred and twenty thousand six hundred twenty-five pounds sterling. Besides this income in specie, a great number of imposts were paid in kind, which it is not possible to ascertain or fix any average value upon; but it is certain they must have been in proportion to the produce of the land, and consequently very great in a country inhabited by a numerous and indefatigable nation, devoted to agriculture, which they had carried to a pitch of perfection unknown to the rest of Europe³⁵.

The mines of gold, silver, and other metals, which Spain abounds with, were another inexhaustible fund of wealth to the Arabs, who kept a great number of miners constantly employed. The discovery of America and of its treasures, which seem to have brought contempt upon the riches of the old world, has deterred the

³⁵ This calculation of the Arabian historian favours much of exaggeration; as the sums mentioned, far exceed all ideas we have of the quantity of gold and silver coin in circulation at that era: but I have given it in his words, without any farther comment.

kings of Spain from continuing to work the mines they have at home.

The extensive commerce carried on by the Moors with other nations, brought an incredible flow of wealth into their country. I shall not speak of their inland traffic, as I find nothing in their authors that can throw light upon it, or enable us to form any precise judgment of its extent and importance. I intend to confine myself to the operations of their foreign commerce, which was distributed into various channels, many of them rendering an excessive profit. It consisted either of the natural unwrought productions of Spain, or part of the same productions manufactured at home, and exported to foreign markets.

Gold, silver, copper, raw-silk, oil, sugar, false cochineal, quicksilver, pig and cast iron, and above all, their silk and woollen manufactures, were the most lucrative articles of exportation.

Ambergrease, yellow amber, loadstone, antimony, salt, talc, marcasites, rock chrystal, tuttie, sulphur, saffron, ginger, myrrh, and various other drugs, formed other objects of trade, which though inferior in value and quantity, produced nevertheless great and clear returns.

Much coral was fished on the coast of Andalusia, and that of Catalonia had a pearl fishery.

Spain contained many mines of rubies and other precious

precious stones ; those of rubies near Malaga and Bejar, and that of amethysts near Carthagená, were in the highest repute.

These different commodities were conveyed to Barbary, Egypt, and all the East.

The temper of the Spanish arms was held in the greatest repute by all the Africans ; Spain was in a manner their arsenal from which they drew their cuirasses, bucklers, casques, scimitars, and daggers.

The demand for raw-silk, and for the silk and woollen stuffs of various colours made at Granada and Baza, and for the woollen cloths manufactured at Murcia, was very great throughout Africa : there can be no doubt, but their trade with Egypt must have been upon a more extensive plan than that with Barbary ; the Spanish Arabs carried thither the goods of their country to barter against those productions of Egypt, which Spain stood in need of. The immensity of their traffic with the East, is not to be conceived ; for reasons of state, the Omniads constantly endeavoured to keep upon the best footing possible with the court of Constantinople, which they hoped would prove a check upon the enterprizes of the caliphs of Damascus, who never ceased repining at the dismembering of their empire by the first Abdoulrahman. All the ports of the Grecian dominions were open to the Spanish traders, who im-

ported rich cargoes of merchandize adapted to the calls of that refined luxury, by which Constantinople was then distinguished; the profits upon such operations of commerce may easily be supposed to have been prodigious.

Alkahem the second succeeded his father. The Arabian writer relates the following singular proof of courage given by a cadì, in reproving this prince for a piece of injustice committed against one of his subjects.

A poor woman at Zehra, possessed a small spot of ground contiguous to the royal palace. The caliph being desirous of extending his gardens that way, made proposals to the old woman to dispose of her land for a sum of money; but she continuing deaf to every argument employed to induce her to part with the inheritance of her forefathers, the head gardener took by force what she refused to yield to entreaty. The woman in an agony of despair, flew to Cordova, to implore the succour of Ibn Bechir, the chief cadì of the city. This magistrate immediately mounted his ass, taking with him a sack of extraordinary size, and presented himself before Alkahem, who was then sitting in a magnificent pavillion on the very ground in question. The arrival of the cadì, and the appearance of the wallet, surprized the sultan. Bechir having prostrated

prostrated himself, entreated the prince to allow him to fill his sack with some of the earth they were then upon. This request granted, and the bag full, the cadi desired him to help him to lift it on his ass. This strange demand was still more amazing than the rest: however the caliph consented; but upon putting his shoulder to it, could not help complaining of the excessive weight of the load. "Sir," replied the cadi, "this bag, which you find so heavy, contains but a very small portion of the earth which you have unjustly taken from a poor woman; how then do you expect to be able at the day of judgment to support the weight of the whole field you have had so little scruple of usurping." Far from being incensed at this audacious rebuke, the caliph generously acknowledged his fault, and ordered the land to be restored to the proprietor with every thing he had caused to be erected upon it.

This monarch left a minor to succeed him, and the kingdom to be governed by the famous visier Mahomet Abenamir, surnamed *Almanzor* or *the defender*, from his great victories and wise conduct. His descendants inherited from him the visiership, and a power as absolute as if they had been caliphs, until the weakness of the sovereigns encouraged, and the insolence of the ministers provoked the grandees to disturb the state with

with their jealousies and diffentions; these broils occasioned such a series of civil wars and anarchy, as overthrew the throne of Cordova, and destroyed the whole race of Abdoulrahman. Thus the glorious edifice founded by the valour and prudence of that conqueror, and cemented by similar virtues in many of his successors, sunk into nothing, as soon as the sceptre devolved upon weak enervated princes, whose indolence and incapacity transferred the management of every thing to a visier. Many petty kingdoms sprang up out of the ruins of this mighty empire; and the Christians soon found opportunities of destroying, by separate attacks, that tremendous power, which when united had proved an overmatch for their utmost force.

But it is high time I should put an end to this long letter, which, I am afraid, you will look upon in no better a light than that of an Arabian night's entertainment: The writers of the Moorish history, though often contemporaries of the princes, whose lives they relate, may with good reason be suspected of exaggeration in their display of the wealth and achievements of their heroes; but nevertheless, there must be some truth at the bottom, and their details cannot fail of being entertaining to every curious reader. My heart bleeds, while I tell you, that of all these glories, except the mosque, not even a ruin remains. Zehra,
with

with all its delices, is erased from the face of the earth ; no one even knows where it stood, and its very existence may pass for a fable. The piety of the Christians in converting the mosque into a church, has preserved it from a similar fate.

That the wonders which have been the subject of this letter, may obtain some degree of probability in your eyes, I shall hasten to sketch out an exact description of that ancient place of worship.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Cordova, April 16, 1776.

I Did not intend sending you another letter from this city, as our plan was to have left it this morning by day-break ; but there is no depending on the things of this transitory world, much less on the skill of a Spanish wheelwright. After waiting with impatience till he had completed the repairs of our shattered chaise, which had been overturned the day we came from Eccija, we at last received from him our travelling orders, and set off in great spirits ; when, behold !
directly

directly opposite to the *Potro*, a place well known to Don Quixote's first landlord, one of our wheels flew into fifty pieces, and brought us to the ground in the middle of the kennel: upon this, we had no choice left but of returning to our inn to pass this day and to-morrow in the best manner we can. I shall employ it in writing to you what I intended should serve to make a letter, to fill up part of my tedious hours in some venta between Cordova and Madrid.

The *Potro*, our *ne plus ultra*, is nothing more than a large fountain with a paltry stone statue of a *colt* on the top; when Cervantes wrote his Romance, Seville was the mart of Europe, and all the neighbouring places under the benign influence of commerce, were much more frequented and better known than at present; we walked on the *playa* of San Lucar, without seeing a single idle fellow, and the *compras* of Seville are now as empty as the square before the *Potro* of Cordova.

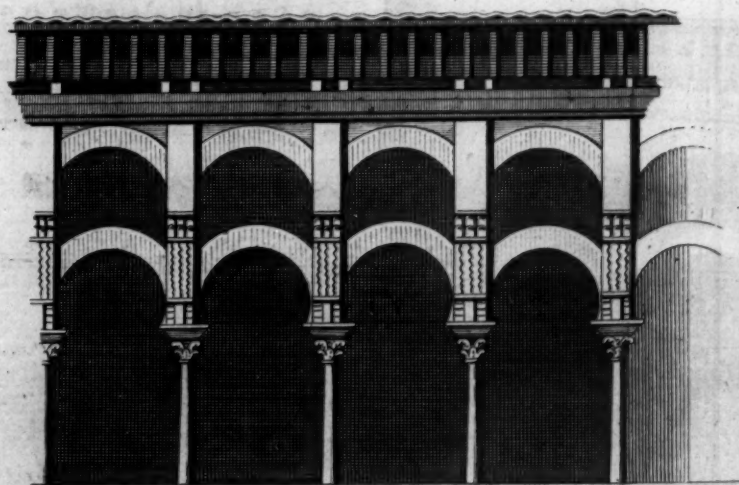
The mosque, in Spanish called La Mesquita, from the Arabic word *masgiad*, a place of worship, was begun by Abdoulrahman the first, and destined by him to remain to after-ages as a monument of his power and riches, and a principal sanctuary of his religion. His ideas were sublime, and he was fortunate enough to find an architect whose genius was equal to the task of putting them in execution. He laid the foundation of
the

*On the
of the
or Sanctum*



*Wall
Zancarron
Sanctorum*

Section of the great Ile



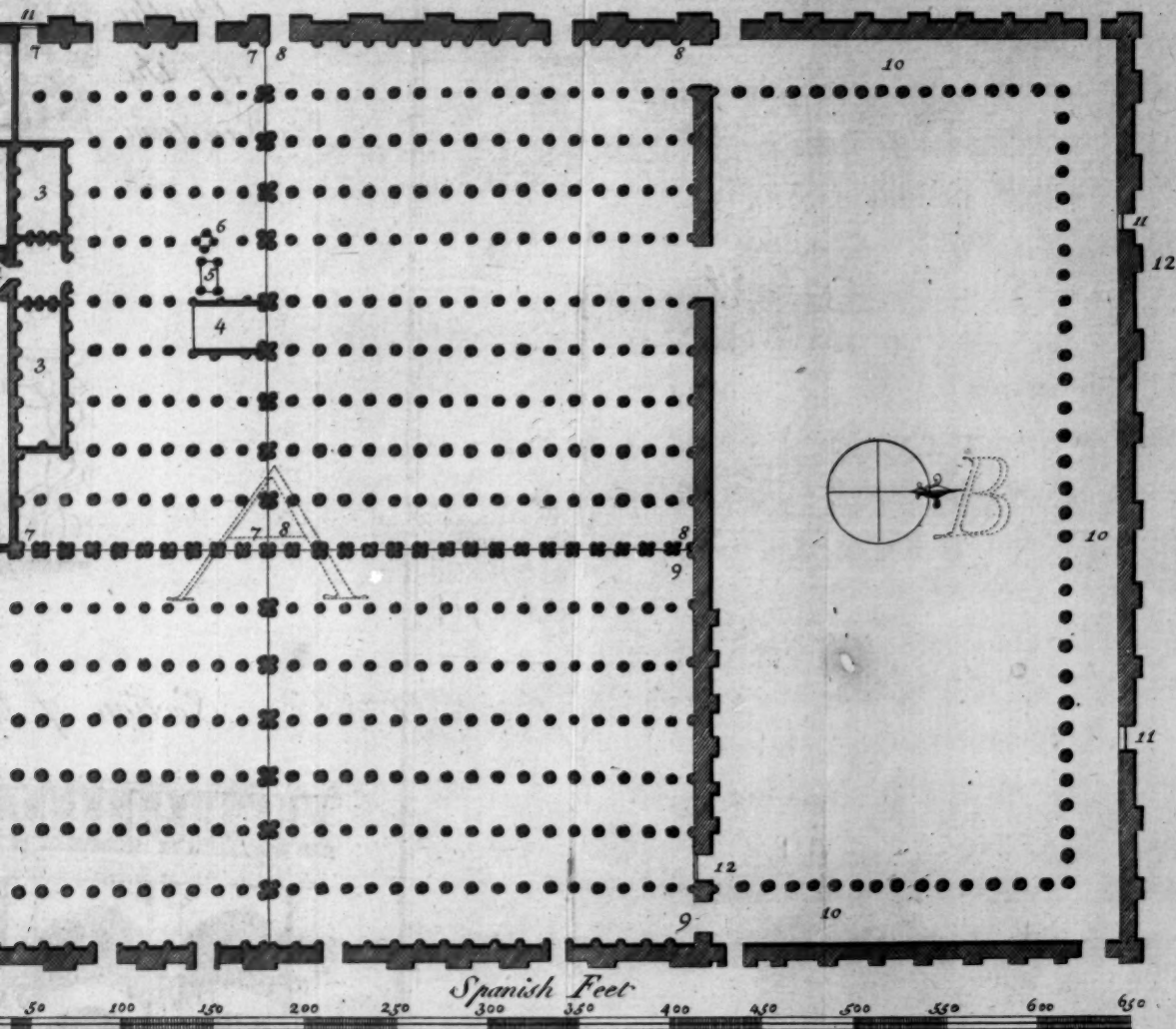
5 10 20 30 40 50
Spanish feet

H.S. del. 1776



A 7
1 2
2 1
3 1
4 1
5 1
6 1

Plan of the MOSQUE of CORDOVA in Moorish Times



References

The Mosque
Zancarron
Priest's Rooms
Part where none but Priests entered
Seat of the Moufti
Throne of the Caliph
Seat of the Cadi

B The Court of Ablutions
7 Part where the Nobles State
8 Part for the People
9 Addition to the first Mosque
10 Porch where they left their Shoes
11 Doors now walled up
12 New Doors opened by the Christians



the work two years before he died: his son Hifsem or Ifcan finished the whole mosque about the year 800. It was more than once altered and enlarged by the Mahometans themselves, and has since undergone several changes since it became a Christian church. The greatest alteration was made in the fifteenth century, by building a cupola in the center upon Gothic arches, and scooping away part of the ancient edifice to form a large choir.

In the days of the Mussulmen, the mosque was a square building, with a flat roof upon arches, which did not rise more than thirty-five feet above the pavement. It was four hundred and twenty in breadth, and five hundred and ten in length, including the thickness of the walls. The roof was borne up by near a thousand columns according to some accounts, and by seven hundred and seventy-eight according to others, which formed nineteen iles from east to west, and twenty-nine from north to south, if we may trust to the description given by Morales, and many other historians; but I own I cannot see how there could ever have been more than seventeen, and the plans of the academy mark no more ²⁵. The columns were of the richest

²⁵ From my own observations, and an examination of the plans taken by the academicians, sent by the king to measure and draw this and other ancient

richest marbles ; the twenty-four gates were plated with bronze, embossed in a most curious manner. The principal entrance had its folding doors covered with plates of gold. Upon the highest cupola were three golden balls, bearing up a pomegranate and a flower de luce of the same precious metal. Four thousand seven hundred lamps burned in the mosque every night, and consumed in a year near twenty thousand pounds of oil ; it also required annually sixty pounds of wood of aloes, and sixty of ambergrease, for the perfumes.

Such is the description of this famous temple left us in the writings of the Arabian and old Spanish authors.

I now proceed to give you a minute account of its present state, after the notes I took down upon the spot with the utmost attention.

The streets round the mosque are narrow, and ill calculated for affording a general view. But indeed there is nothing very shewy on the outside. The walls are plain enough, and not very high : the roof is hid behind battlements cut into steps. On the east

ancient buildings in the south of Spain, I find the measurements given by most historians, who describe the dimensions of this church, to be extremely difficult to reconcile, and I believe erroneous, at least not much to be depended upon ; for which reason I have adhered to the plans above mentioned.

side,

side, the whole length is divided by buttresses into thirteen divisions, and about the same number on each of the other three sides. The doors opened in many of these compartments are ornamented with stucco of different colours. On the north side is a lofty belfry, a modern building, that has made a total alteration in the appearance of that front. Seventeen gates admit you into the church and cloyster. The cloyster, or court, which served the Mahometans for their ablutions, and as a place to leave their slippers in, before they entered the holy house, is an oblong square of five hundred and ten feet, (the length of the church) by two hundred and forty. A portico of sixty-two pillars environs it on three sides, about twenty-five feet wide. The middle is taken up with three handsome and copious fountains, groves of orange-trees, and some towering cypresses and palms, which form a most delightful retreat in the sultry hours. We have had occasion to experience the comforts of this shade at noon-day, when the natives being all retired to their *siesta*, we were left in full possession of this ancient fabric. Contrary to the custom of the rest of Spain, the doors are left open all day, and nobody finds fault with those that saunter about in the church out of idleness or curiosity.

Near the great gate, that leads from the cloyster into

Q q 2

the

300 TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN.

the mosque, are three pieces of columns, each with an inscription, which vary from each other only in the name of the emperor, the rest of the words being alike in all three.

T.I. C.A.E.S.A.R. D.I.V.I. A.V.G.V.S.T.I. F.

D.I.V.I. I.V.L.I. N.E.P.O.S. A.V.G.V.S.T.V.S.

P.O.N.T.V.F.E.X. M.A.X. X.X.I. C.O.S.

V. I.M.P. T.R.I.B. P.O.T.E.S.T. X.X.X.V.I.I.

A.B. I.A.N.O. A.V.G.V.S.T.O. Q.V.I. E.S.T.

A.D. B.O.E.T.I.M. V.S.Q.V.E. A.D.

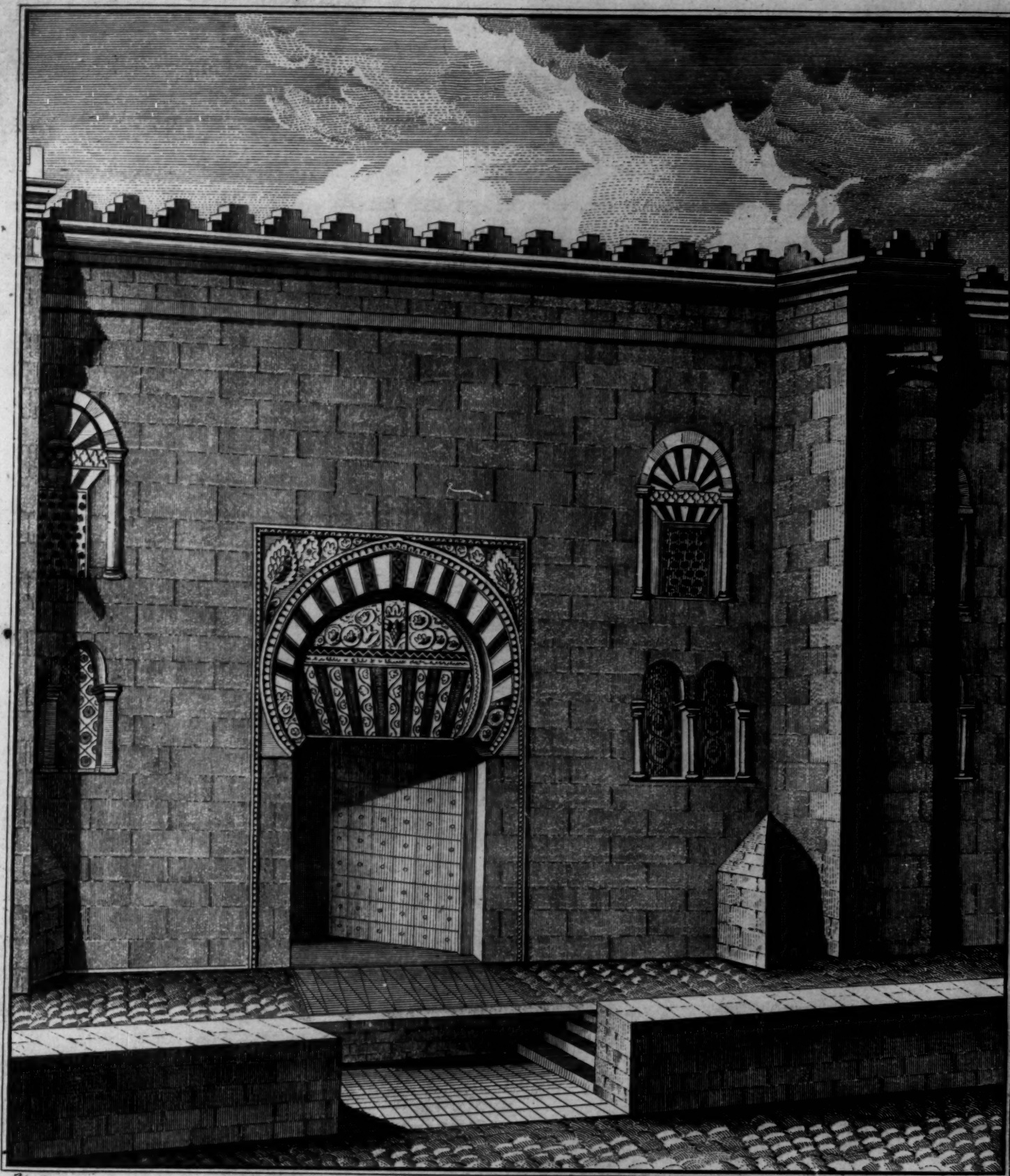
O.C.E.A.N.V.M.

L.X.I.I.I.I.

The others bear the names of Augustus and Caius. What these kind of milestones, and the Janus Augustus were, I confess I am not able to inform you, nor can I procure any information from Maffei's collection of inscriptions, as, instead of explaining these lines, he doubts of there being any such existing.

The grand entrance of the church is at the thirteenth ile from the east wall, which is rather wider and loftier than the rest, and the parts more decorated.

Nothing can be more striking than the first step into this singular, rather than beautiful edifice. To acquire some idea of it, you must represent to yourself a vast gloomy labyrinth, like what the French are so fond of
in



H. Swi. 1776

Part of the East Front

C. Nelli sc.



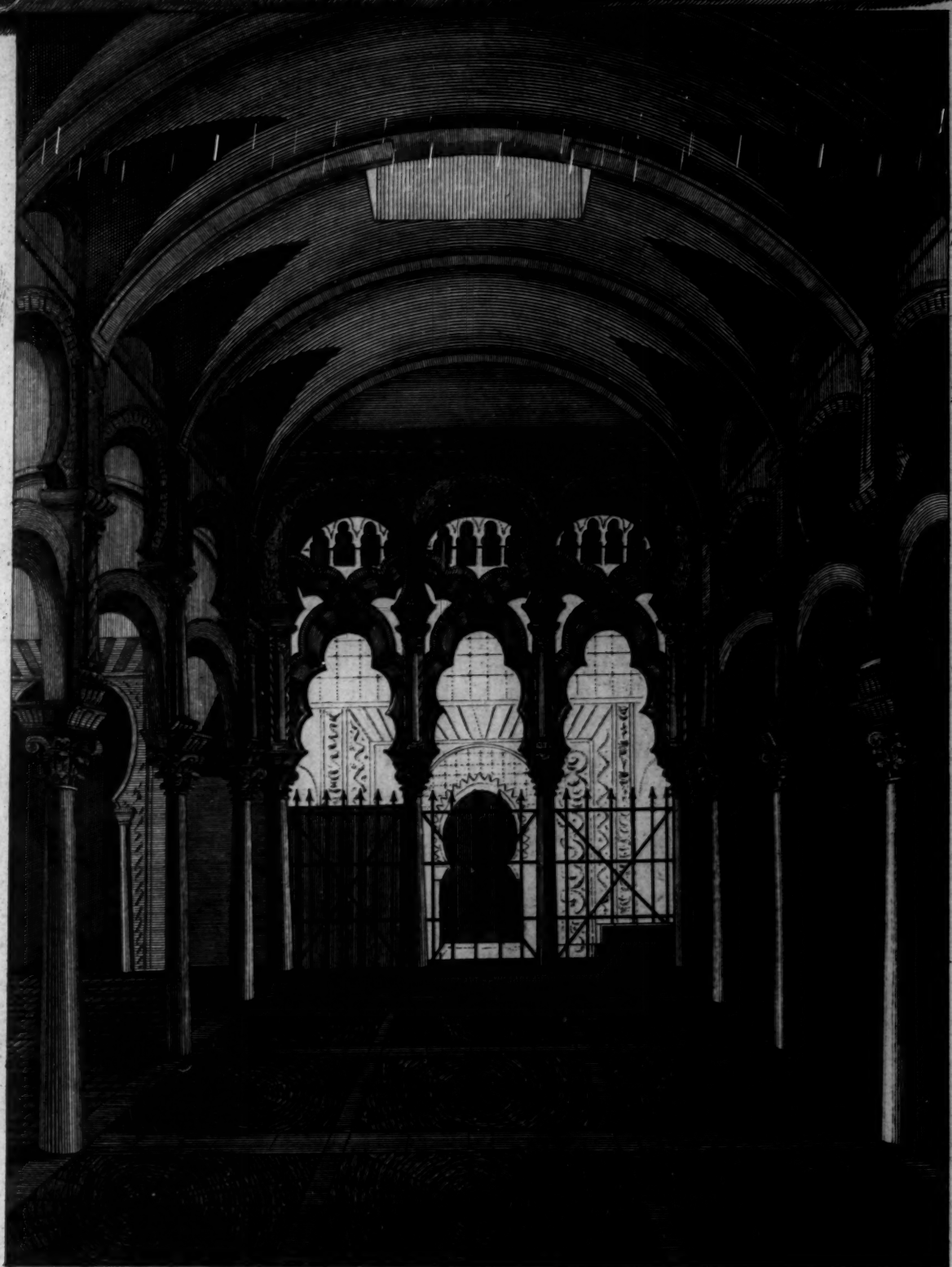
in their gardens, a fine *quincunx*. It is divided into seventeen iles, or *naves*, (each about twenty feet wide) by rows of columns of various marbles, viz. blue with white veins, yellow, red, red veined with white, grey, and Granadine and African green. These pillars are not all of the same height; for the Arabs having taken them from Roman buildings, served them in the same manner as the tyrant Procrustes did his guests: to the short ones they clapped on monstrous capitals, and thick bases; those that were too long for their purpose had their base chopped off, and a diminutive shallow bonnet placed on their head. However, the thickness of the shaft is pretty equal throughout, about eighteen inches diameter, and the capitals are generally barbarous imitations of those of the Corinthian order. A couple of arches, one above the other, rising from the columns, run along the rows; and from the same basis springs an arch that forms the roof of each ile.

By several alterations and additions, the Moors had divided the whole mosque into four parts, marked out by two lines of clustered pillars, crossing each other at right angles: three of these portions were allotted to the populace and the women; the fourth, in the south-east angle, was reserved for the nobility and clergy. In this last quarter was the *zancarron*, or holy chapel, where they deposited the books of the law. The door
of

of it faced the great gate, down the principal ile. The ornaments and architecture of this sanctuary, and of the throne of Almanzor, which is in front, at the distance of six intercolumniations from it, are very different from those employed in the other parts. Two ranges of columns that support the screen before this *penetrable*, are about six feet high; the upper ones of red and white marble, the lower of green, with capitals most minutely carved and gilt. The roof of the dark inner sanctuary is said to be of one block of marble, eighteen feet wide: if so, it is not only curious for its size and quality, but also for the ingenuity of the architect, in placing it in so perfect an equilibrium as to remain unshaken so many ages. The manner of casting the arches, grouping the columns, and designing the foliages of this screen and throne, (which is an exact repetition of it) is very heavy, intricate, and barbarous, unlike all the Moorish architecture I saw at Granada. Indeed it is many centuries more ancient than any ornamental work at that place.

The zancarron is now the property of the duke of Alba, who has his family vault under it.

Behind this chapel, and on each side of it, were the lodgings of the dervishes, which now serve for chapter-house, sacristy, and treasury. This church is extremely rich in plate, and has lately added to its store four ponderous



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CHAPEL OF THE ALKORAN IN THE MOSQUE OF CORDOVA.

F. Giomignani sc.



ponderous silver candlesticks, very nicely wrought : they were made in Cordova, and cost about eight hundred and fifty pounds sterling apiece.

It is scarce possible to ascertain the exact number of columns in the mosque, as they originally stood, because great changes have been made, many taken away, displaced, or built up in the walls of chapels, and several added when the choir was erected in the center of the whole. Were it in any other church, it would deserve great praise, for the Gothic grandeur of the plan, the loftiness of the dome, the carving of the stalls²⁷, and the elegance and high finishing of the arches and ornaments : but in the middle of the Moorish mosque, it destroys all unity of design, darkens the rest, and renders confused every idea of the original general effect of the building. Many chapels, stuck up in various parts between the pillars, interrupt the enfilade, and block up the passage. The worst of all, is a large chapel of the Virgin, that closes the main ile exactly in the middle ; and the throne of Almanzor is now occupied by a poor piece of legendary painting.

I can imagine no *coup-d'œil* more extraordinary than that taken in by the eye, when placed in such spots of the church as afford a clear reach down the iles, at right

²⁷ The stalls were carved after the designs of Cornejo of Seville. It took twelve years to finish the work, and one to put it up.

angles,

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angles, uninterrupted by chapels and modern erections. Equally wonderful is the appearance, when you look from the points that give you all the rows of pillars and arches in an oblique line. It is a most puzzling scene of confusion.

Light is admitted by the doors, and several small cupolas; but nevertheless the church is dark and awful: people walking through this chaos of pillars seem to answer the romantic ideas of magic, enchanted knights, or discontented wandering spirits.

In one of the cupolas hangs the tooth of an elephant; which, our guide told us, had formerly belonged to one of those animals, that was particularly useful in carrying stones, and other materials, for building the mosque.

A very extraordinary circumstance attending this church, which we have been thrice eye-witnesses of, is, that when the foundlings given out to parish-nurses die, they are brought into the cathedral, and laid upon a particular altar, that the chaplain may take them away to bury them. I went up to the first I saw, mistaking it for a votive waxen saint, prepared for some ceremony; nor was I undeceived till I touched the poor little creature. The second was laid down while we were there, and had all the symptoms of having been starved to death. There are not less than five hundred children
lost

lost to the population of Cordova every year in this manner, by neglect or ill treatment.

An officer took us out this afternoon to the bishop's country house down the river. The late prelate was very fond of it, and had made it a pleasant, comfortable retreat; but since his death it is become very ruinous. The revenues of the see amount to three thousand five hundred pounds sterling a year. As the bishops cannot devise by will, all they die possessed of escheates to the king.

I wish I could contrive a method of carrying you some of the fine earthen jars, called *buxaros*, which are made in Andalusia. They are remarkably convenient for water-drinkers, as they are light, smooth, and handy: being not more than half baked, they are very porous, and the outside is kept moist by the water's filtering through: though placed in the sun, the water in the pots remains as cold as ice. The most disagreeable circumstance attending them is, that they emit a smell of earth refreshed by a sudden shower, after a long drought.

I am just informed that our wheel will require another day to be refitted; which is a terrible piece of news indeed this rainy weather; for every day the roads will grow worse and worse, and we are not able to ride about to see the environs. Were there such a thing as

a bookfeller in this once learned city, I would buy Seneca, and try what consolation his philosophy affords in his native country.

LETTER XXXVI.

Santa Cruz, April 21, 1776.

I Write this from the Campo de Montiel, not very far from a *Lugar de cuyo nombre no quiero acordarme*²³: Have passed over the Sierra Morena, and being now fairly entered into Don Quixote's own country, cannot resist the temptation of beginning a letter, let the end of it be written where it may so happen.

On the 18th we made our departure good from Cordova; but proceeded with fear and trembling, every moment peeping out to examine the state of our wheels, and, at each unmerciful jolt, biting our lips, and drawing up into our respective corners, to prepare for an overturn. Time gave us courage, and the anxiety passing off by degrees, we ventured to look out, and enjoy

²³ The first words in Don Quixote.

the

the fine vale of the Guadalquivir, which runs between two ridges of hills, covered with hanging woods and olive yards; several clear streams traverse the plain, and fall into the river. The ancient raised road, be it Roman or Moorish, was always most acceptable to us, whenever we got upon it; for it is a fine hard gravel above the level of dirt and water. Every brook had its bridge, but scarce one in twenty now remains.

At the bridge of Alcolea, where we passed to the south of the river, are kept the king's stallions. One or two of them are noble horses; but an Andalusian breeder values a horse for such points in the make, as would deter an English jockey from buying him. The former requires his horse to be forward and bulky in the shoulders, with his forelegs far back under his belly, and the tail set so low, as always to be squeezed close to his hams; he never suffers him to lie down, but keeps him constantly on a clean pavement sloping from the manger, with his forelegs close chained to the ground. You know Cordova has long been famous for its breed of horses, but it seems to be strangely fallen off; very few good looking ones are now to be met with. A gentleman of that city assured us, as indeed we had heard before, that the breed was much neglected, and little care taken to preserve it pure and genuine; the king having given the superintendence

of his stud to a stranger, a foot officer, who perhaps never rode any thing but an ass or a mule in his life. Before this change, the employment was always held by a Cordovese nobleman, who, as well as his friends, piqued himself upon breeding and exhibiting the choicest horses possible; but now in disgust, they have entirely laid aside all thought or taste for that pursuit, and seem quite indifferent about the animals they ride or drive.

For two days we travelled up the river. The country it waters is very rich and beautiful; the plains extending far and near, charmingly streaked with rows of olive-trees; towns and castles near each other along the banks; the northern hills darkened with woods, and all the distant eminences to the south, green with corn: this luxuriance of vegetation and fatness of soil, rendered the roads abominably deep; our baggage was obliged to be carried upon mules half a day to ease the draught of the carriages. The cliffs along the river-side swarmed with flocks of a most elegant water bird, called an *Abejaruxa* or Bee-eater: we shot several of them, and longed much to be able to preserve them in their feathers, or to have time and opportunity to paint them for your inspection, as I am certain the sight of them would give you great pleasure. They are about the size of a blackbird; their back is of a
light

light brown colour, shaded with burnished gold, growing more deep and ardent towards the head, ending in a pale yellow, mixed with a greenish blue about the beak, which is very long, black, sharp, and strait; a black stroke runs from the beak round the eye, which is of a bright scarlet colour; the throat is yellow; the breast, down which runs a narrow black line, is of a fine blue, that becomes lighter along the belly; the upper part of the tail is azure, the under brown; the wings of a brownish yellow, surrounded with a blue stripe, tipped with black.

At Carpio is a Moorish mill or engine, with three huge wheels, which raises water to a great height, and conveys it to enrich a large tract of level. The landscape near it is remarkably pleasing.

At Anduxar we took our leave of the Roman road, and of the river, which however we had now and then a distant peep of from the heights.

Yesterday we entered the Sierra Morena, a chain of mountains that divides Castille from Andalusía; rendered famous by the wars of the Christians and Mahometans, but perhaps better known by being the scene where the immortal Miguel de Cervantes has placed the most entertaining adventures of his hero. As we were near the eastern extremity, the land, though very high, and commanding a vast prospect to the south,

south, did not in the least resemble a ridge of mountains, such as the Alps, the Pyreneans, or many others. It did not appear much more broken and elevated than many parts of England, which are well inhabited and cultivated.

The journey was very agreeable up the course of the Rio de las Piedras, a clear roaring torrent, tumbling over a bed of rocks, through glens of beautiful woods: the wastes are covered with a profuse variety of flowering shrubs; particularly cistus of many sorts, among which the gum-cistus or rock-rose is the handsomest: they gather manna from it in spring, by beating the bushes with small twigs, to which the viscous substance of the plant adheres. Sumach also grows in great abundance on these hills; it is cut down in August, the leaves, flower, and stalk, are all pounded together, and used in lieu of oak-bark in dressing hides.

We now entered the new Colony of La Carolina, and its dependencies, planted eight years ago by the king, in a very extensive tract of woody mountainous country. The first settlers were Germans; but from eating unwholesome herbs, and drinking too much wine and brandy, above half of them died, and now the inhabitants are the mixture of Germans, French, Savoyards, Catalans, and other Spaniards. The reach of land in cultivation, and full of houses and villages, where

where there was nothing before but forests, the retreats of banditti, extends at least three leagues in length, and, I believe, very little less in breadth. They talk of ten thousand families being already settled here; but I do not see how it is possible there can be any thing like that number.

La Carolina, the capital of all the colonies, stands on a fine hill that towers over the whole settlement, and indeed over most part of the provinces of Granada and Cordova. For the sake of thus overlooking the rest of the plantations, they have placed it in a spot deficient in wood and water; and reduced themselves to the necessity of digging an incredible number of wells for the purposes of drinking, and watering their gardens. The whole town is new from the foundations, for there was not a cottage there eight years ago, the streets are wide, and drawn in straight lines, but the ground is not sufficiently levelled; the houses are upon an uniform plan, without the least decoration: the church fronts the principal south road; and a tower placed at each angle marks the extent of the town, which is to be an exact square: the market place and another square, are very spacious and shewy. All the flat on the crown of the hill before the town is laid out in kitchen gardens, and planted with avenues of elms, which are to serve hereafter for public walks.

I never

I never saw a scene more pleasing to the eye, or more satisfactory to the mind of every person that feels himself interested in the welfare of his fellow-creatures : his humanity must exult at the probability of their lot being so much ameliorated : for my part, I enjoyed the most agreeable sensations at the sight of this absolute creation, this new world risen out of the very heart of desolation and solitude ; every thing seems so alive, so green, neat and thriving ; in a word, so unlike the rest of this unactive kingdom. About a year ago, the department or district of the town of La Carolina, contained near eight thousand souls, but I was not able to obtain any exact information of the extent comprized under that denomination ; three hundred Catalan manufacturers came to settle here in the course of last year : cloth and other manufactures seem to go on briskly ; but I fear there is an inconstancy, a languor in the pursuit of projects, inherent in the very essence of the Spanish government, that will greatly retard the further progress of this colony ; in the beginning, they spare neither pains nor expence to carry on a scheme, as may be seen here, where it is astonishing to behold how much has been done in a very short space of time. Our master muleteer, who had never been here since the Miquelets were sent to scour the country, and destroy the gang of robbers, that harboured hereabouts, could

could scarce believe his eyes, and did nothing but raise his hands to heaven and cross himself, as if he had got into a land of witches. It was no small enhancement of the merit of the place, to find an excellent inn and good dinner, and to regale ourselves upon excellent cow's milk and butter, to which we had been long strangers; for though they have cows in many parts of Spain, they seldom milk them, but keep them for breeding, and fattening in their old days for slaughter.

Now I have shewn you the fair side of La Carolina, I cannot, as a just and impartial correspondent, avoid informing you of the vices of its constitution, the defects in its establishment and direction, with the reasons I have for suspecting it will fall off every year, 'till it dwindles away to a petty Spanish town, just kept alive by the monies spent at the inns by muleteers and passengers.

The foreigners complain, with what justice I know not, of not having been treated with the indulgence and tenderness an infant colony requires; if any of them expressed discontent, or seemed desirous of returning to his native country, he was instantly secured, and chastised by a long and severe imprisonment. Many families were two or three years before their allotments were made out, during which time they were

S f

obliged

obliged to work gratis for the other settlers ; unmarried people were allowed no share of land, but employed as servants to the rest ; when the poor Alsacians or Savoyards had the good fortune to be placed upon a rich patch of soil, and had brought it into tolerable condition, they were frequently ousted by the governor, their habitation transferred to a Spanish family, and themselves sent to improve a more bleak and barren part of the hills. The king gives all new-comers one year's seed corn, two cows, ten goats, some implements of husbandry, and some household stuff, which is generally infinitely worse than his majesty intends it should be : he pays them a stipend for their maintenance for the first three years. Some few foreigners, having numerous families grown up, thrive and improve in their circumstances, but the rest will in all probability leave the country as soon as the time of their contract expires, provided they be allowed to remove. The Spaniards have gradually got possession of the best plantations, and the town of Carolina has scarce any other inhabitants. The worst of all is, that there seems to be no outlet from this settlement, in case their manufactures should arrive at any degree of perfection, for it is on every side extremely remote from the sea, and many days journey by land from the great cities of Spain, where the consumption of their commodities might

might be expected to turn to any considerable account.

A little north of Carolina, we passed through a new village called Las Navas de Tolosa, from the old name of the defile in the neighbouring mountains; where, in 1212, Alfonso the ninth, king of Castille, Peter the second, of Aragon, and Sancho the seventh, of Navarre, with their joint forces, attacked and cut to pieces the army of Mahomet, king of Morocco. Historians gravely tell us, that there fell no less than two hundred thousand Moors, more than half their army, with the loss of only twenty-five Christians. In a letter said to have been written by Alfonso to the Pope, this list of the slain is given. I always thought it a most extraordinary story, but now that I have seen the field of battle, I look upon it to be full as wonderful how three hundred and fifty thousand Moors, without reckoning the Spanish forces, could contrive to squeeze themselves into such a heap of mountains jumbled together, where you could not find twenty yards of level ground for some miles round the spot.

The evening was very fine, and the hills steep, which induced us to walk most part of the way. Having got a good distance before the carriages, among some woody dells, we began to be in great hopes and constant expectation of some *Cardenio* or *Dorothea* bolting out

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upon us. While we were amusing ourselves with such Quixotic reveries, the sound of a guitar suddenly struck our ears. At a turn of the road, close by the side of a sweet murmuring brook, we met with about a dozen well dressed men, and as many smart, handsome damsels, dancing upon a platform of large level stones. The females that were not busy dancing, were seated under fine hanging woods, on a natural amphitheatre of rocks. The principal men came very politely up to us, and invited us to partake of their sport, while a very pretty girl presented us with sweetmeats and sugar-plumbs. A jolly friar seemed to do the honours of this *fête champêtre*, and to have the privilege of throwing his handkerchief at which of the sultanas he pleased; for they all courted his smiles and careffes. We stayed some time with this merry crew, who danced several seguidillas, and sang several songs at our request. They pressed us much to go back up the hill, and pass the night with them at the house they belonged to, where they intended to be very frolicsome: but as it began to rain, we declined the kind offer, and parted with our new friends, whose music and jovial shouts we had the pleasure to hear re-echoed by the rocks, almost during our whole walk up to our inn at Miranda.

This morning, the heaviest of our trunks being put
upon

upon mules, to lighten the chaises, we crossed the Sierra Morena, at the pass called *El Puerto del Rey*. The road is far from bad, though steep; but the mountain is as dreary and disagreeable as any thing can well be. The heavy rain did not render us more indulgent to its ill-favoured aspect. In Cervantes's days, there were perhaps noble woods to cover all this nakedness, as here and there some venerable pines and chestnut-trees remain, sad monuments of ancient forests.

All the Mancha before us seems to be a bare corn-country, ugly and tedious beyond expression. For my part, unless it be to look out at a venta, or peep about for an adventure at the meeting of the cross-roads, I intend sleeping all the way to Madrid.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

Madrid, April 27, 1776.

WE perceived a very severe alteration in the climate as soon as we descended the Sierra Morena, and entered the Mancha: from the beginning of summer we were in a manner thrown back to the last months

months of winter. In Andalufía, the vines were all in leaf, and their fruit fet; the flowers of the shrubs falling off to make way for the feed. On the northern side of the mountains scarce a fresh leaf was to be seen, or a bud in the vineyards; the poor starved bushes, with just a flower or two blown; the weather cold and raw: in a word, it is difficult to conceive so sudden and so thorough a change of seasons as that which we experienced in this journey.

The Mancha is an immense plain, intersected by different ridges of low hills and rocks: not an inclosure of any kind, except mud-walls about the villages: and really I can almost say, there is not a tree to be seen from the Sierra Morena to Toledo, nor from the banks of the Tagus to Madrid: a few dwarfish evergreen oaks, huddled together in nooks of hills, and some stumpy olive-plants, scarce deserve the name of trees. All this vast tract of open country is cultivated in corn or vines: there cannot be an uglier. The villages are large; few or no single houses; and not a *venta* that I could fix upon for the scene of any action in Don Quixote. We lay at Puertolapiche, a small village mentioned by Cervantes; but I think he omits telling us what adventure was achieved there. In short, with all the helps of imagination, and reading the book all the way, the country did not raise one agreeable idea, nor tempt me to take
a single

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a single sketch of any part of it. The houses are built with mud and gravel. The women cover their heads with coloured handkerchiefs, and their necks with laced palatines.

Val de Peñas produces a very pleasant red wine, the most drinkable, for common use, of any in Spain. The provision of wine for the king is kept in hogheads; the remainder of the vintage in skins. The best wine sells at the rate of twenty reals the arroba.

The badness of the weather hindered us from riding a few miles out of the road to visit *Los Ojos dela Guadiana*, where that river, after running eight leagues under ground, rises up to day, and thence takes its course towards Estremadura. We passed over the subterraneous river at the Venta de Quesada, where the well in the yard communicates with it. Straw, or any kind of light stuff, dropped into the well, is hurried away with such rapidity by the stream, that you will not bring up a single straw, though you let down the bucket almost instantaneously. The incurious Spaniards have made so few experiments upon this phenomenon, that we could procure no further intelligence on this head. The Manchegos have a pretty song about these eyes of the Guadiana, which, however, they declare to be much less wonderful than those of their mistresses. At Consuegra, a most beautiful gipsy girl, with the sweetest eyes in
the

the world, sung it to us, and danced seguidillas to the tune with admirable agility and expression. She was quite *Preciosa the little gipsy*, with her soft voice and affected lisp. It is a pity her beauty was much impaired by her mode of dressing, which gave her a most prominent belly, a defect few Spanish women are free from, and a flat low breast, which they esteem a great perfection in a lady's shape.

Toledo is the strangest city you can imagine in point of situation ; something like Durham, or Richmond in Yorkshire, but not equal to either in beauty, as it is totally bare of wood.

The Tagus, after winding at large through a fine plain, which a little more wood would render very agreeable to the eye, comes at last to be wedged in between two ramparts of high steep rocks : the passage is very narrow, and before the river gets out again into a broad bed and open ground, it almost returns to the place where it entered the defile. On this rocky peninsula stands the city, exceedingly ill built, poor, and ugly. The streets are so steep, that no stranger in his sober senses would venture up or down them in a carriage.

The Alcazar, or ancient palace, which was burnt down by the allied army in the beginning of the century, is placed on the highest point of all. It is a noble

noble extensive building, and has just undergone a thorough repair, at the expence of the archbishop, who has fortunately taken a turn towards employing some portion of his great revenues in works of public utility, such as this palace, a new road to Aranjuez, and a street in the town²⁹. It is supposed that the Alcazar will be converted into an hospital or orphan-house. The architecture is chaste and unaffected; the inner court is very grand; its colonnade of granite columns, of the Corinthian order, makes a noble appearance; the chapel is lofty and narrow, which renders it convenient to attend divine service, as there is a balcony in each story of the house that leads into it. The stables are under the kitchens and offices, and are large enough to contain a very considerable number of horses. The garret story is one open gallery for playing in, above

²⁹ The see of Toledo is said to be worth four hundred thousand ducats a year; but there are large deductions to be made. Besides the proportion the infant Don Lewis receives, and pensions to different people, it pays annually fifteen thousand ducats to the monks of the Escorial, notwithstanding Philip the second granted to them no less than thirty villages in their neighbourhood. The Spanish court finds many ways of lessening the revenues of the church, by pensions, donations to hospitals, charitable foundations, and premiums to the societies of agriculture. There is not a bishopric in the kingdom but has somebody or other quartered upon it; and I believe the second-rate benefices are in the same predicament. Out of the rich canonries and prebends are taken the pensions of the new order of knights of Carlos tercero.

eighty yards in length. In the middle stories are several large halls, the most spacious of which measures about one hundred and sixty feet by thirty-six.

The cathedral has nothing particularly beautiful on the outside above the common run of Gothic churches: it is not to be compared with many we have in England. The steeple is in the ugly style of the Flemish and German spires, a heap of blue turrets piled one upon another. The inside is well lighted and chearful, neither heavy, nor confused with too many ornaments: the decorations added of late years are not in the best of tastes, but in richness of gilding without a competitor. The wealth of the archbishop and chapter displays itself in the profusion of gold lavished on the walls; they have gilded the iron rails, the Gothic arches, and even drawn lines of gold to mark the joints of the stones with which the pillars of the choir are built.

The group of angels, called *El transparente*, which is fixed behind the choir, and esteemed by the Tolendans the glory of their church, is at best but a clumsy, ill-designed monument, remarkable for nothing but the fineness of the marble and other materials.

One of the greatest vexations a curious person experiences in travelling through Spain, is the scarcity, the non-existence of tolerable *Ciceroni*; those you meet with are generally coblers, who throw a brown cloak

over

over their ragged apparel, and conduct you to a church or two, where they cannot give you the least satisfactory information concerning its antiquities or curiosities. This is literally the case at Toledo: but to make amends, they lead you to a hole in a pillar, where the host was hidden all the time that the Saracens were in possession of the city, though the whole fabric has been built from the ground since the expulsion of the Moors; for Saint Ferdinand laid the first stone of the present church in 1226. They also shew you the stone on which the Virgin Mary stood, when she came to pay a visit to Saint Ildephonsus, and which is worn through by the fingers of the pilgrims. Ask them any thing about the Mosarabic chapel, and what is done there, they will tell you, as they did us, that mass is said there in Greek. That you may not accuse me of being as barren of instruction as our conductors, I shall put together the chief points wherein the ^{3o} Mosarabic rite differs from that of the Roman missal. The former liturgy was constantly used by the church of Spain, down to the pontificate of Gregory the seventh, in the eleventh century: it had been confirmed by several Spanish councils, commented upon and illustrated by Saint Isidore of Seville: but the policy of the court of

^{3o} The Mosarabic rite is so called from its having been observed by the Christians that remained in the provinces conquered by the Arabians.

Rome, and its influence over the mind of Alphonfus the fixth, who had lately conquered Toledo, overcame the obftinate attachment of the Spanifh clergy. Notwithstanding the prowess of the Mofarabic champion, who came off victorious in the fight (for it was agreed to try the merits of the two liturgies by fingle combat) notwithstanding the flames were not more indulgent to the Roman than to the Gothic ritual, when, in hopes of a decifive miracle, the two books were thrown into the fire before the king, notwithstanding the clamours raifed by the natives, the ancient rite was abrogated in the greater part of the kingdom. It fubfifted in fix parifhes of Toledo as late as the fifteenth century, but is now reftained to the fingle chapel of St. Eufatiá, in the cathedral, where Cardinal Ximenes, unwilling that his church fhould lofe all remembrance of its ancient forms, made a foundation for thirteen priefts and three clerks, who officiate every morning according to the Mofarabic manner.

In essentials this ritual agrees perfectly with Rome, but in many outward forms differs widely. I fufpect it varied much more in its original ftate; for it is hardly credible the difpute could have been fo obftinately maintained for fuch trifling deviations as what now fubfift. But indeed that would not amount to an undeniable proof; we know that the church has always
looked

looked upon the resistance to its authority to be of more consequence than the difference in outward ceremonies.

The prayers before mass are not the same; not always the same portions of scripture read on the same festivals. In the Roman missal are two lessons, one from the Old Testament or the Epistles, and one from the Gospels: the Mozarabic gives three, one from the Old Testament, another from the Epistles, and a third from the Gospels. The Romans say the creed before the offertory, the others after the consecration.

Toledo has lain in the route of most of those travellers that have written on Spain; and in them you will find ample accounts of every thing remarkable. As I hate repetitions, and would willingly avoid them whenever it is possible, give me leave to refer you to the works of those gentlemen. One circumstance only I cannot refuse myself the satisfaction of acquainting you with, though I make no doubt but it is an anecdote to be met with in twenty books of travels. In the convent of St. Francis, founded by Ferdinand and Isabella, the first novice received was Ximenes, who, in the course of the same reign, rose to be cardinal, archbishop of Toledo, and prime minister of Spain. His history, as well as that of Don Juan de Padilla, have lately acquired redoubled lustre from the pen of Dr. Robertson; in whose
admirable

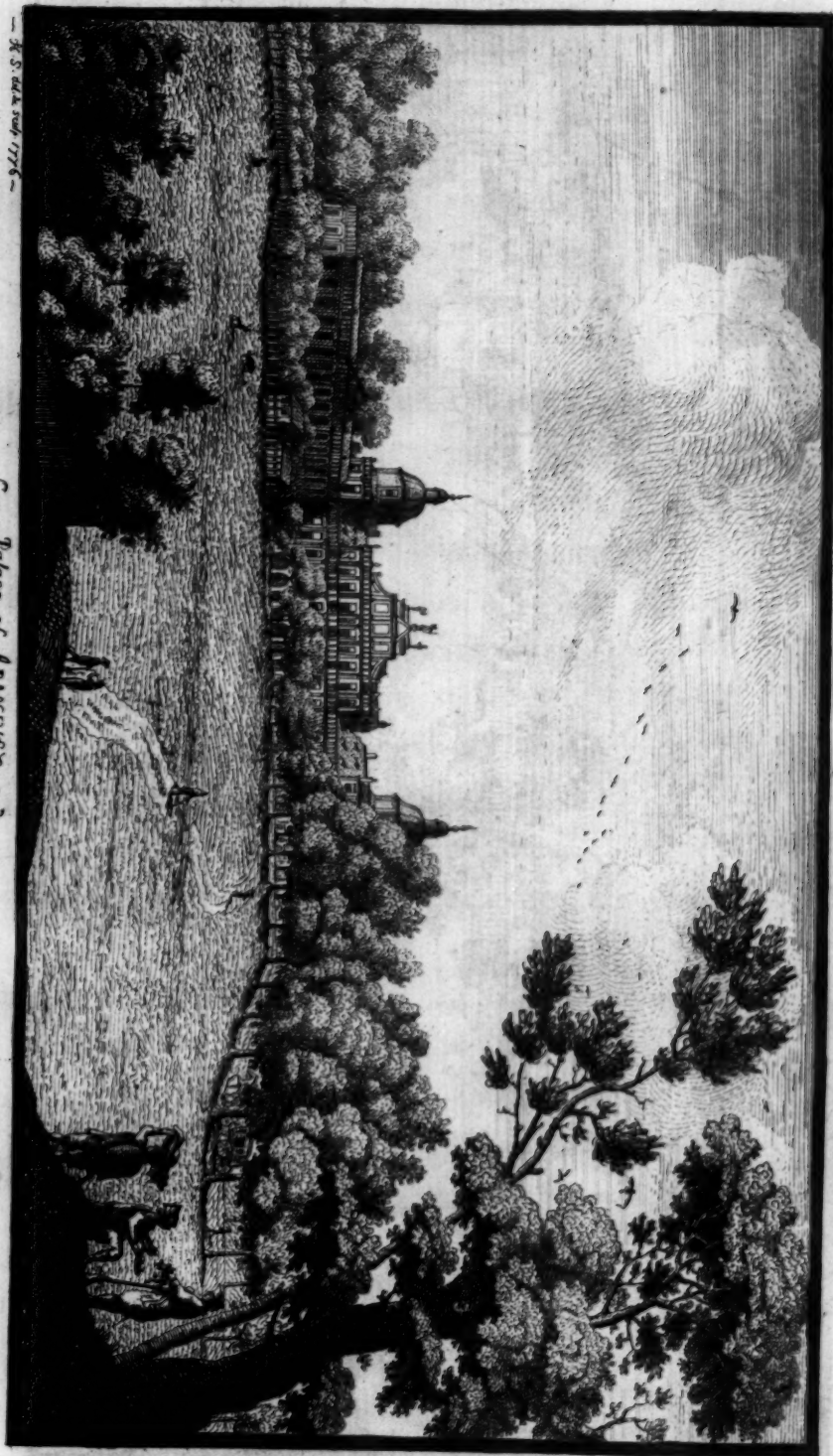
admirable life of Charles the fifth is to be found every necessary information relative to the revolt of Toledo.

From the ancient capital of New Castille to within half a league of Madrid, the present seat of government, the roads are as bad as in any part of the kingdom, and the country extremely ugly. I do not imagine the most pitiful city in the peninsula can cut a more despicable figure than this metropolis of all the Spains does from the opposite hills, as you approach it on the south side; neither tree, villa, nor garden, until you arrive at the avenues of the town; the corn-fields run up close to the houses; in short, the whole landscape round you is the barest and most melancholy I ever beheld: but as soon as the trees of the walks shut out the prospect of the neighbouring country, the appearance of Madrid is grand and lively; noble streets, good houses, and excellent pavement, as clean as it once was dirty.

The court is absent from Madrid, so that our stay here will be no longer than will be sufficient to rest ourselves, and get our things put in order for our appearance at Aranjuez.

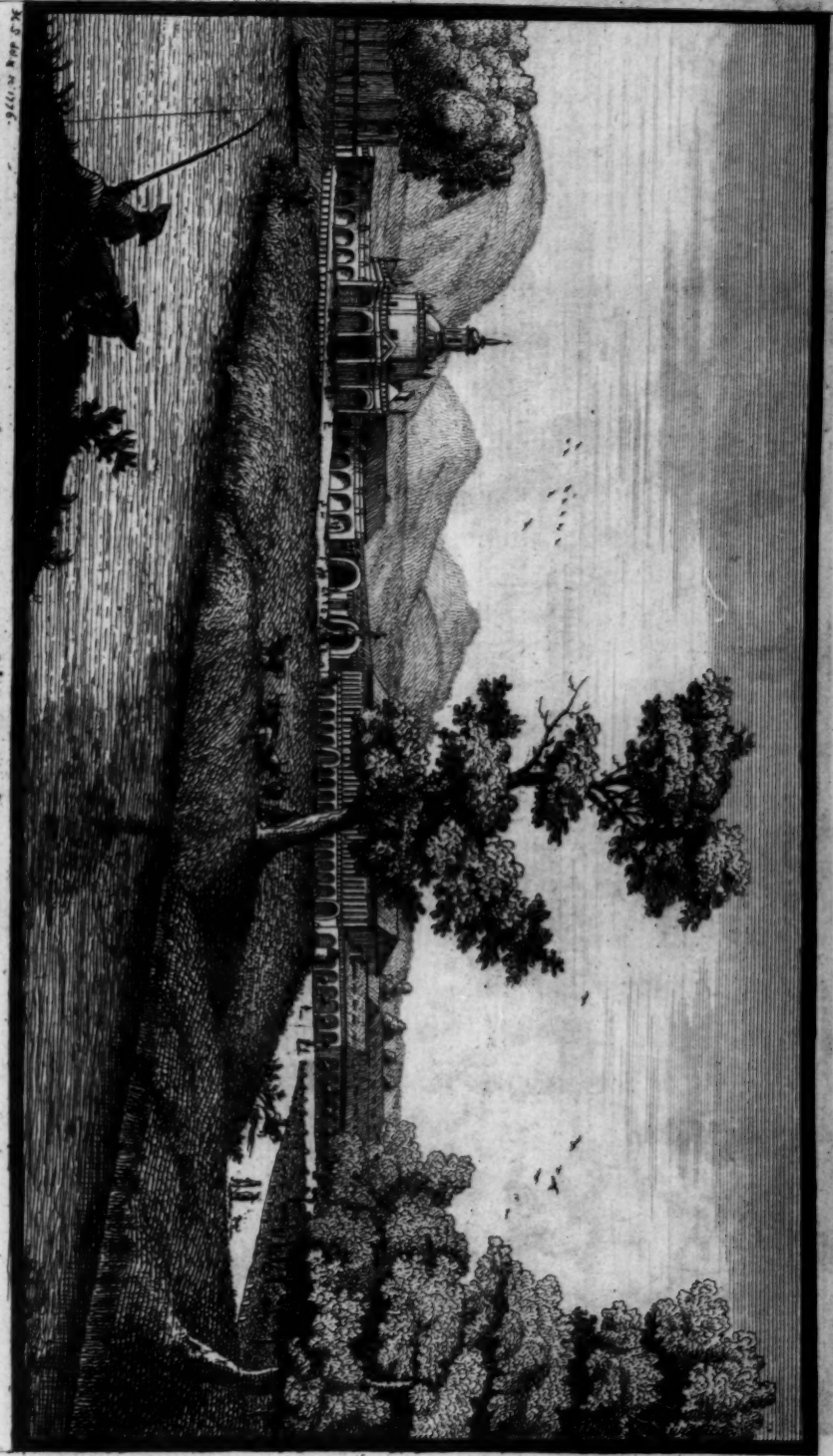
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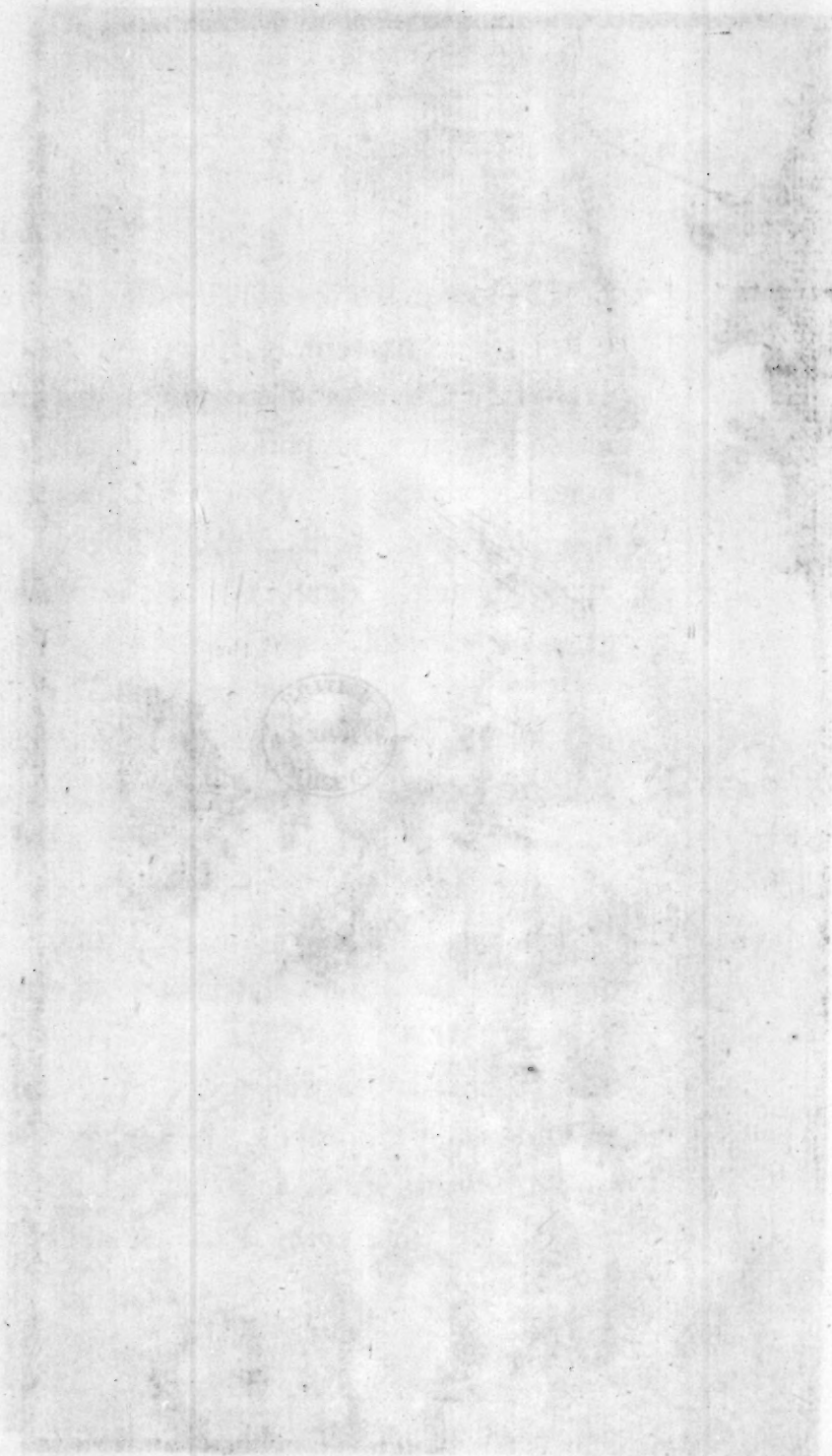
— H. S. 1776 —

Palace of Nevers



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(ARANDUEZ)



L E T T E R XXXVIII.

Aranjuez, May 3d, 1776.

THIS place is twenty miles from Madrid ; the road to it extremely fine ; but the trees planted on each side are as yet too young to shut out the abominable country it passes through. The present king made it at the vast expence of one hundred and thirty thousand pounds sterling. The new bridge over the Xarama, at the descent into the plain, is very long and grand.

Aranjuez has great beauties, and would please you much ; for here are numberless avenues of aged elms on a perfect level ; green banks to rest upon, near a fine meandering river ; fountains and shady groves ; plenty of milk and butter, and vegetables in great perfection.

The situation of this place renders it one of the most agreeable residences I know belonging to a sovereign prince. It stands in a very large plain, surrounded with bare hills, which to be sure, are excessively ugly ; but they seldom appear, being very well hidden by the noble rows of trees that extend across the flat in every direction. The compartments between the avenues are
railed

railed off, and laid down in pasture and meadow, for the supply of the large dairy of cows established here by the present king. That part of the vale which stretches out towards the east is left in a ruder state, and, except some few fields of corn, is mostly forest-land, through which the Tagus winds in a deep shady bed. The walks and rides along the banks, through the venerable groves, and under the majestic elms that overhang the roads, are luxuries unknown to the rest of Spain. The beauties of the scenery are enhanced by the flocks of many-coloured birds that flutter and sing on the boughs, by the herds of deer, which amount to no less than seven thousand head, and by the droves of buffaloes, sheep, cows, and brood mares, that wander uncontrouled through all these woods. The wild boars are frequently seen in the evenings in the streets of the town.

The finest avenue, called the *Calle dela Reyna*, is three miles long, quite strait from the palace gate, crossing the Tagus twice before it loses itself in the thickets, where some noble spreading elms and weeping poplars hang beautifully over the deep still pool. Near this road is a flower-garden for the spring, laid out with great taste by Mr. Wall during his ministry. The gay variety of flowers at this time of year is particularly pleasing to the eye; but its beauty soon fades
on

on the approach of summer. As the weather grows hot, the company that chooses to walk retires to a garden in an island of the Tagus, on the north side of the palace. This is an heavenly place, cut into various walks and circular lawns, which in their primitive state may have been very stiff and formal; but in the course of a century, Nature has obliterated the regular forms of art; the trees have swelled out beyond the line traced for them, and destroyed the enfilade, by advancing into the walks, or retiring from them. The sweet flowering shrubs, instead of being clipped and kept down, have been allowed to shoot up into trees, and hang over the statues and fountains they were originally meant to serve as humble fences to. The jet-d'eaux dash up among the trees, and add fresh verdure to the leaves. The terraces and balustrades built along the river, are now overgrown with roses, and other luxuriant bushes, hanging down into the stream, which is darkened by the large trees growing on the opposite banks. Many of the statues, groupes, and fountains, are handsome, some masterly, the works of Algardi: all are placed in charming points of view, either in open circular spots, at a distance from the trees, or else in gloomy arbours, and retired angles of the wood.

The west front of the palace is handsome: two new wings, which are to be brought out from the main

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body, will increase its bulk, but, I am afraid, will not add much to its beauty. The first part of the building was erected by Philip the second, who purchased the estate, planted many of the avenues, and, in order to extend his chace, or to indulge his splenetic disposition, had all the vines that grew on the hills rooted up. By that means he drove away the inhabitants, and rendered the environs of his villa a perfect desert. These hills are full of springs, that throw up large quantities of a strong purgative salt.

The apartments are good, but contain no great number of paintings or statues. There is an Annunciation in the chapel, by Titian, and Mengs has painted some holy subjects in the bed-chamber, and an allegorical piece of Time and Pleasure, in the ceiling of the theatre. In a Franciscan church lately finished, the picture of San Pasqual, by the same hand, is much admired.

The town or village formerly consisted of the palace, its offices, and a few miserable huts, where the ambassadors, and the attendants of the court, endeavoured to lodge themselves, as well as they could, but always very uncomfortably; many of the habitations were vaults half under ground. What determined the king to build a new town, and to embellish the environs, was an accident that happened at the nuncio's; a coach
broke

broke through the ceiling of his dining-room, and fell in upon the table. The court then began to apply very considerable sums to the purpose of erecting proper dwellings, for the great number of persons that flock to the place where the sovereign resides; near ten thousand are supposed to live here two or three months in spring; the king keeps one hundred and fifteen sets of mules, which require a legion of men to take care of them. Half a million sterling has been laid out at Aranjuez, since the year 1763; and it must be acknowledged, that wonders have been performed; several fine streets drawn in strait lines with broad pavements, a double row of trees before the houses, and a very noble road in the middle; commodious hotels for the ministers and ambassadors; great squares, markets, churches, a theatre, and an amphitheatre for bull feasts, have been raised from the ground. Neatness and convenience have been more studied and sought for than shew in the architecture, but altogether the place has something truly magnificent in the coup-d'œil.

This afternoon we had a very pretty entertainment on the river. The prince of Asturias, and his attendants, embarked in a galley richly decorated, preceded and followed by other smaller barges, adorned in a less splendid, though still a very gay manner. They rowed from his banqueting-house up into the woods, where

the meandrings of the river are exceedingly beautiful, forming fine sweeps and reaches with green banks, shaded by aged trees that hang in various clumps over the stream. Crowds of holiday-folks in their best apparel, lined both sides of the Tagus, and were no small addition to the rural shew.

The pleasures of Aranjuez are walking or riding in the morning, going to court, dining at some of the open tables kept by the great officers of state, a game at cards, a drive along the avenue, and the Italian opera. The ministers are quite easy in their behaviour, and their houses free from ceremony and restraint; that of the prime minister, the marquis Grimaldi, is superlatively so: he keeps an open house, where we are always sure of meeting with a numerous company, cards, and conversation; the master of it is always glad to see us, and shew us every civility the place admits of: I am afraid we do not attend as much perhaps as we are in gratitude bound; for there are so many temptations at our own ambassador's, that it is with difficulty we can bring ourselves to sacrifice the pleasures we find at his house to the duties imposed upon us by society. The easy frankness, affability, and friendship, with which Lord G. treats us, make us loath to waste elsewhere the hours we can pass so agreeably under his roof.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R XXXIX.

Aranjuez, May 6, 1776.

WE have just finished our round of presentations, which in so numerous a royal family, is a work of more days than one; as I know you expect a minute account of each of those that compose it, I am sorry I am incapable of satisfying your curiosity, in as ample a manner as I could wish; you shall have a description of their persons, and as much of their characters, as I have learned from well-informed people, in whose judgment I can confide. I beg you will consider how hard it is to discern the true character of the great, as your intelligence can only flow to you through the suspicious channel of many jarring passions and interests. It is impossible for a stranger to seize a good likeness in so short a time, and to transmit to others a faithful representation, of a prince, that does not admit him to a familiar intercourse. I don't know but sovereigns are the most difficult characters to define in a whole nation; for all princes appear pretty nearly alike; their mode of life is uniform; by seeing none but inferiors about them, they acquire a great indifference in their manner

manner, and seldom betray in their countenance any of those strong emotions that mark the various feelings of men obliged to bustle through the world; their passions lack the relish which arises from delays and difficulties; what the French call *Ennui*, wearisomeness, is, methinks, the grand malady of princes, and therefore amusement is their main pursuit in life. In the princes of the House of Bourbon, the passion of fowling predominates; yet in the Spanish royal family, there are some who toil at the gun with more reluctance than the farmer's boy does at the plough; have a taste for arts and sciences, and wish for nothing more than to be freed from the obligation of following the diversion.

The ceremony of presentation is performed as the king rises from table. Charles the third is a much better looking man than most of his pictures make him; he has a good-natured laughing eye; the lower part of his face, by being exposed to all weather, is become of a deep copper colour; what his hat covers, is fair, as he naturally has a good skin; in stature he is rather short, thickly built about the legs and thighs, and narrow in the shoulders. His dress seldom varies from a large hat, a plain grey Segovia frock, a buff waistcoat, a small dagger, black breeches, and worsted stockings; his pockets are always stuffed with knives, gloves, and shooting tackle. On Gala days, a fine suit is hung upon his shoulders,

shoulders, but as he has an eye to his afternoon sport, and is a great œconomist of his time, the black breeches are worn to all coats. I believe there are but three days in the whole year that he spends without going out a shooting, and those are noted with the blackest mark in the calendar; were they to occur often, his health would be in danger, and an accident that was to confine him to the house, would infallibly bring on a fit of illness. No storm, heat, cold, or wet, can keep him at home; and when he hears of a wolf being seen, distance is counted for nothing; he would drive over half the kingdom rather than miss an opportunity of firing upon that favorite game. Besides a most numerous retinue of persons belonging to the hunting establishment, several times a year all the idle fellows in and about Madrid, are hired to beat the country, and drive the wild boars, deer, and hares, into a ring, where they pass before the royal family. A very large annual sum is distributed among the proprietors of land about the capital, and near the country palaces, by way of indemnification for the damage done to the corn. I was assured that it costs seventy thousand pounds sterling for the environs of Madrid, and thirty thousand for those of Saint Ildefonso. In order to be entitled to this reimbursement, the farmers scatter just as much seed-corn over their grounds, as will grow up into something like a crop; but

but they do not always give themselves the trouble of getting in the scanty harvest, being sufficiently paid for their labour by the royal bounty.

Being naturally of an even phlegmatic temper, the king is sure to see events on their favorable side only; and whenever he has determined in his own mind that a measure is proper to be pursued, he is an utter enemy to alteration. As far as I can judge, by comparing the different accounts I have had, he is a man of the strictest probity, incapable of adopting any scheme, unless he is perfectly satisfied in his conscience that it is just and honourable; of such immovable features, that the most fortunate or the most disastrous occurrences are alike unable to create the smallest variation in them: rigid in his morals, and strenuously attached to his religion; but he does not suffer his devotion to lay him open to the enterprizes of the court of Rome, or the encroachments of his own clergy; on the contrary, they have frequently met with rougher usage at his hands than they might have expected from a free-thinker. The regularity of his own life renders him very strict about the conduct of his children, whom he obliges to be out fishing or shooting as long as he is absent on the same business; this he does to prevent their having time or opportunity to harbour bad thoughts; and truly I believe he goes out so constantly himself, in order to keep

keep down the vigour of his own constitution. He seldom addresses himself to any young men of his court ; but delights in conversing and joking with elderly persons, and such as are of his own age, especially monks and friars. He is very partial to Naples, and always speaks of that country with great feeling.

Since his accession, many great works have been completed ; noble roads made to all the palaces round the metropolis ; several others undertaken in more remote provinces : he has finished the palace at Madrid, and added considerably to those of the Pardo and Aranjuez ; built new towns at Aranjuez, the Escorial, and Saint Ildefonso ; and planted a great deal at Aranjuez. The marquis of Grimaldi has the merit of having suggested and conducted most of these improvements, and of having urged on the king, who, although he has naturally no great relish for the arts, thinks it the duty of a sovereign to encourage them.

The prince of Asturias is of an athletic make, his countenance rather severe, and his voice harsh. He seemed in a great hurry to get away from us ; but the princess stayed chatting a great while. She is not handsome, being very sickly, but seems lively, and genteely shaped, with a very fine hand and arm. If she lives to be queen, I dare say she will render this court a very gay one ; for she appears to like to go abroad, and con-

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verse with strangers. When she walks out, all persons that have been presented, and chance to be in the way, are expected to join her company, and escort her as long as she thinks proper. Her mildness and good-nature have softened much of her husband's roughness of manner; and of late he seems to have more pleasure in sitting with her in a domestic way, than in trudging over the heath in quest of game.

Don Gabriel is a tall well-looking man, but timid to excess. He possesses many talents, but his constant avocations out of doors prevent his applying to study as much as he could wish. I have seen some good pictures done by him with the flock of cloth, and have heard much of his classical learning, and turn for mathematics.

Don Antonio appears to be very well pleased with the active life of a sportsman.

The Infanta Maria Josepha has reason to envy every country wench she sees roaming at liberty; for confinement, etiquette, and celibacy, are likely to be her lot during life.

Don Lewis, the king's brother, after having been a cardinal and an archbishop, is now on the eve of matrimony with a pretty Arragonesa girl, whom he took a fancy to last year, as she was running across the fields after a butterfly. As he has made a collection of natu-
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ral history, this similitude of taste made a great impression upon him. This wedding, which the king has consented to with reluctance, has produced a total revolution in the marriage-laws of Spain. A new pragmática or edict is published, to prevent all matches betwixt persons of unequal rank and quality; by this decree, the old custom is abrogated. Heretofore it was out of the power of parents to hinder their children from marrying whom they liked, and the church interposed to oblige them to make a suitable settlement upon the young couple.

Don Lewis's bride is not to be allowed the title or rank of a princess of the blood, nor are her children to be deemed qualified to succeed to the crown; he is to reside near Talavera, where I make no doubt but he will lead a happy life, as he has a great taste for music and natural history; his cabinet already contains a very valuable collection of rarities, especially such as are found in the Spanish dominions. This prince is cheerful, humane, affable, and full of pleasantry; good qualities that render him the darling of the nation.

The king and all the males of his family wear the ensigns of a great variety of military orders. On their left breast is a row of stars like the belt of the constellation of Orion: they are also decorated with the blue ribband of the French order of the Holy Ghost, and

the insignia of the Burgundian golden fleece. They have besides the Neapolitan red fash of Saint Januarius, the red crosses of Calatrava, founded in 1158, of Saint Iago, dating from 1175, and of Montesa, instituted in 1317, and the green cross of Alcantara, invented in 1176. After all these badges, comes the blue and white ribband of the Conception or Carlos tercero, established by the present king, on the birth of the late son of the prince of Asturias.

L E T T E R X L.

Aranjuez, May 28, 1776:

IN the course of last week, we saw the king's stallions, some of which are beautiful creatures. Before I came into Spain, I thought handsome horses were to be met with in every part of the kingdom, but to my great surprize, found them very rare in all the provinces; so little attention has there been paid to the breed of that generous animal, formerly the boast of Spain.

At Villamejor, a few miles from hence down the
Tagus,

Tagus, his majesty has a stable of a less noble, but not less useful race of stallions, that of Jack-asses. These beasts are of a shape and size you can have no idea of: they are fourteen hands high, and have such monstrous large heads, thick legs, and rough coats of long hair over their whole body, that scarce a trace remains of the figure of an animal. They say these *Garranones*, as the Spaniards term them, are extremely furious in the covering season; I am sure at present, they are the most stupid of their dull species. Each ass covers twenty mares, and costs near thirty thousand reals, about two hundred and eighty pounds sterling. They are bred in the mancha.

The way to Villamejor lies along the vale through a considerable new farm, called the *Campo flamenco*, lately taken in by the marquis Grimaldi, and laid out in a grand scale. On an eminence stands the farm house, with large rooms for the royal family to take a hunter's repast in. The road up to it is a shewy, royal work, but might have been spared had the building been erected a little lower, or had it been intended for the reception of none but common husbandmen.

In our return in the evening we overtook the bulls intended for the next day's feast or fight. They appeared very peaceable and tractable. Whatever may be said of their ferocity, when irritated in the *arena* by darts, fire, and lances, I am apt to think they can never

ver be so terrible or dangerous as our vicious bulls in England. Those I have seen wanted size and weight, and did not appear to me to have any real fury in their nature, 'till it is raised by repeated provocations, and the desultory attacks of so many adversaries. To bring them quietly along the roads from their pasture, the drovers employ certain white oxen, trained up to be decoys; these go along with the bulls, 'till they lead them into the stables under the amphitheatre.

I have now been a spectator of several *Fiestas de Toros*, but cannot bring myself to have any relish for the diversion. Whatever they may have been in former times, they are certainly but a poor exhibition at present, though the crowds of people assembled in a circle, and agitated in a most tumultuous manner, must be allowed to be an interesting and curious spectacle. None of the royal family ever appear at these favorite amusements of the Spanish nation: the nobility no longer pique themselves upon their strength, courage, or dexterity, in these rough exercises; and the fair condescend to yield up their hearts and persons to lovers that have given no proofs of their prowess, but in combats of a softer nature: the consequence is, a total want of emulation: no gentleman cares to hazard his life in a trial of skill that promises no advantage to him of any kind. The shew is conducted with great æconomy and niggardliness; none but the worst of horses are bought for
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the day; and the mercenary gladiators no longer study the most dexterous, but the most secure way of destroying the bulls, being allowed so much a head for each beast they slaughter. The money paid for boxes and seats, is appropriated to the building or endowing of some hospital.

The coup-d'œil of the amphitheatre, filled with so many spectators of all ranks, is very striking. They are so very noisy and impatient till the shew begins, and in such violent commotion while it lasts, that one is kept in perpetual alarm and flurry of spirits for the first or second time of assisting at this diversion. Contrary to the custom of the ancient Romans, who placed the senators next to the *podium*, the nobility sit here in wooden galleries and boxes, the mob on benches below, next the arena. A row of soldiers, behind the circular parapet wall, or palisado, hold out halberts and bayonets, to keep the beasts within the lists: but it sometimes happens that a bull, while yet in full vigour, will take a run, and leap over into the crowd on the benches. The confusion it creates is very great; but as the bull is itself hampered and disabled by the seats and wood-work, it can do but little mischief before it is dispatched³¹.

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³¹ In some of the lists delivered out with an account of an approaching bull-feast, notice is given, that people are permitted to flap their hats in the sun. Since the revolt of Madrid (when all hats were ordered to be worn

The common method of conducting a bull-feast is as follows: One or two *Toriadors*, dressed in rich jackets, broad-brimmed hats, and breeches and boots made of a tough, impenetrable leather, and holding under their right arm a long ashen lance (tipped with a broad shallow-pointed head, that can only enter skin-deep) parade on horseback round the lifts, and pay their devoirs to the governor of the place. They then retire to their post, almost in front of a large door, which is opened to let out the bull. The fellow that opens it takes care to climb up immediately into the gallery; for it is not unusual for the bulls to stop short as soon as they get out, and make a home-thrust at the porter: some rush forth with the utmost impetuosity, and run directly at the horsemen; others gaze around, and take their measures with more circumspection.

The cavalier presents the head of his horse to the bull, and with the lance, which cuts along its shoulders, pushes it away to the right, at the same time bearing off his horse to the left: his antagonist is driven out of the line by the violence of the thrust, and its horns pass behind, without hurting either horse or rider. When the man is mounted on a nimble, spirited,

worn cocked up, wherever the court resides) the common hangman is commanded to wear his flouched, that others may not be tempted to let theirs down, for fear of being mistaken for him.

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and docile steed, there is no difficulty in this evolution, as the motions of both animals coincide in giving additional force to the well-directed stroke: but if the horse is numb or refractory, the bull is likely to strike him in the flank, and throw both horse and cavalier to the ground.

There is another way of attacking, with a kind of forked dagger. The horseman stands close by the door, and as the bull springs forward into the lists, he plants the weapon in the back of its neck, and kills it on the spot. Should he miss his aim, there is scarce a possibility of his escaping from the enraged animal; for which reason this mode of combat is seldom practised.

To take off the bull's attention, and to make sport, several nimble fellows on foot run about and toss darts with curled paper tied to them, which, sticking in the head and shoulders, drive the poor creature to madness, and cause a great effusion of blood. This light infantry is often in imminent danger, obliged to run for its life, and save itself by flying into the recesses in the palisadoes, or by jumping over the parapet: it sometimes happens that neither the shouts of the multitude, nor the assaults of the other runners, can call off the bull from the pursuit of one particular fellow; who has then nothing to trust to but his own agility, being totally unprovided with offensive as well as defensive weapons.

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When the governor thinks a victim has afforded sufficient diversion, leave is given to put an end to its life. A well-made champion steps forth, with a short brown cloak hung upon a stick held out in his left hand, and a strait two-edged sword in his right; the blade is always of the finest Toledo temper, and the hilt covered with leather. This *Matador* advances up to the bull, and provokes it to action; as the bull darts at him, and makes a push obliquely, with its eyes shut, he turns it off with the cloak, retiring a little on one side to be ready for the return. On the second attack, he holds the sword in an horizontal position, with such steady aim, that the furious beast rushes upon the point, and by its own impetuosity forces it up to the hilt. The sword enters at the collar-bone, and either pierces the heart, or cuts the great artery. Sometimes the bull drops down dead instantaneously; sometimes stands a few minutes, heaving and spouting a torrent of blood out of the mouth and nostrils.

When the bull proves so cowardly, or so exhausted with fatigue and loss of blood, as to refuse to run at the matador, it is dispatched by stabs in any part of the body, or worried by bull-dogs. The last bull of each fiesta is *embobado*, that is, his horns are muffled, and all the mob is let in, with sticks in their hands, to learn the trade, to beat the animal, or to be bruised and tossed about

about themselves. Three mules, adorned with streamers and bells, draw off the slaughtered bulls and horses between each battle.

I have been thus particular in my account of a bull-fight (though you may find descriptions of it in almost every book that treats of Spain) because most of those I have read talk of royal feasts and exhibitions, which are very different things from the common shews now a days. Our last was a very bloody one: two bulls killed seven horses, but luckily no men lost their lives, though many had hair-breadth escapes. I never saw any thing so weak and inactive as the poor horses were; they had not agility enough to avoid one stroke: and of all horrible fights, that of the bull's tearing out their entrails, and tossing them about with its horns, was the most nauseous and shocking I ever beheld. Both the bulls were hacked to death in a very awkward manner; but the spectators were mightily delighted with the barbarity and bloodshed. We were the other night at a puppet-shew, that ended in the representation of a bull-fight; the mob in the pit was to the full as violently affected, as riotous, and noisy, as they could possibly have been at the real spectacle.

Last year a negro from Buenos Ayres, where he had been trained up from his infancy to hunt the wild cattle of the desert, exhibited some very extraordinary

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feats of strength and dexterity : he took a long rope, with a running noose, and throwing it over the horns of a bull, brought it close to a strong stake, fixed in the middle of the area, where he tied it tight, till he had fastened a saddle on its back, on which he seated himself ; he then cut the cord, and let the beast run about and exert ineffectual efforts to shake off so unusual a load by the most furious movements. When fatigue had sufficiently tamed it, he drove this uncommon steed against another bull, which he soon dispatched, and then at one blow struck the beast that he was mounted upon, dead. The violence of this exercise generally brought on him a dangerous spitting of blood.

The princes and their attendants are now very busy preparing, by daily rehearsals, for the *Parejas* ; which we cannot stay to see, as they are seldom exhibited till the middle of June.

These *Parejas* are a kind of dance on horseback, in imitation, perhaps, of the Trojan games described by Virgil in the fifth book of the *Æneid* ; or more probably of some tournament in the times of Moorish chivalry.

The prince of Asturias, Don Gabriel, Don Antonio, and Don Lewis, have revived them, and each heads a squadron of twelve young gentlemen, arrayed in the ancient Spanish dress ; the divisions distinguished by the particular

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particular colour of their cloaths, feathers, and horse furniture. They parade with music before them in a large tilting yard near the palace; separate themselves into detachments, and perform various intricate figures, resembling those of a stage dance. The docility and elegance of the horses, the splendour and gaiety of apparel of the riders, more than any thing there is in the game itself, render it entertaining for the first time of seeing; but it languishes from a want of that action, that spirit, which interests us so strongly in all public sports, when the actors exert uncommon strength and skill, and are, or seem to be, in some kind of danger. However, it is a pompous spectacle, and may produce very salutary effects, by rousing the nobility from their lethargy, and encouraging them to be a little more attentive to the breed and education of their horses.

LETTER

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L E T T E R XLI.

Madrid, June 4, 1776.

SINCE our return from Aranjuez, the mornings have been employed in turning over a multitude of books and prints, and in taking extracts of such parts as tend to elucidate the history, literature, or antiquities of Spain. In the afternoons, we have spent our time in visiting the most remarkable edifices of the city; if you except the royal palaces, there are few buildings worthy of attention, nor do I believe there is in Europe a capital that has so little to shew as Madrid; having never been the see of a bishop, it has of course no cathedral, nor indeed any church, that distinguishes itself much from the common herd of parishes and convents. Allowing some few exceptions, I think I may safely pronounce the outward architecture of them all to be barbarous, and their manner of ornamenting the inside as bad as that of the worst ages; most of them were erected or retouched during the term of years that elapsed between the middle of the seventeenth century and the year 1759, a period in the history of Spain,

Spain, when all arts and sciences were fallen to the lowest ebb of depravement; the effect of the degeneracy of manners, the want of public spirit, and the disorder and weakness of a decaying monarchy. These vices in the political system under the three last princes of the Austrian line, could not be removed immediately on the accession of another family; the wars that shook the very foundations of their throne for the first ten years of this century, kept all polite arts groveling in the dust; and when they ventured to raise their heads again, and court the favour of the sovereign, there seems to have been a total want of able professors to second their efforts, and assist them in returning to the paths of good sense and true taste. No mad architect ever dreamed of a distortion of members so capricious, of a twist of pillars, cornices, or pediments, so wild and fantastic, but what a real sample of it may be produced in some or other of the churches of Madrid. They are all small, and poor in marbles as well as pictures. Their altars are piles of wooden ornaments heaped up to the ceiling, and stuck full of wax lights, which more than once have set fire to the whole church. The convents which may be said to possess a good collection of pictures, are those of Saint Pasqual and of the bare-footed Carmelite nuns. The former has a fine Titian, a capital Guerchino, and many other pieces by
esteemed

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esteemed Italian masters. In the sacristy of the latter, is a numerous collection of paintings by various hands, many of which are of superior merit. The tombs of Ferdinand the sixth and of his queen Barbara, in the church of the visitation, are almost the only sepulchral monuments of any consequence.

The first king that made any long abode in Madrid, was Henry the fourth. Before his reign, this was but an insignificant place, with a small castle for the convenience of the princes that came to hunt the bear in the environs, which were then as woody as they now are naked. Its situation on a hill overlooking many leagues of country, open on every side to a wholesome circulation of air, and abundance of good water, induced the emperor Charles the fifth to build an ample palace here, which he intended to make his chief residence, as he thought the climate best adapted to his constitution. The sovereign being once fixed at Madrid, the nobility soon abandoned their hereditary castles and houses in other cities, to follow the court. They were under the necessity of settling in the houses they found ready built; and for that reason, added to the supine indifference that seized the Spaniards during the last two-thirds of the seventeenth century, and near half of this, most of the great families still continue to inhabit vast ranges of ugly fabrics not distinguishable from the

the common houses in the streets, except by their larger dimensions.

The palaces of the grandees that contain either statues or pictures of value, are few in number.

In that of Medina Celi are many precious monuments of antiquity in marble, the remains of a great collection brought from Italy, by one of the Dukes of Alcalá.

The duke of Saint Estévan possesses many of the best works of Luca Giordano.

In the gallery of the marquis of Santiago, Murillo has painted the life of Jacob and a Madonna, which may be reckoned among the most capital of the Spanish school.

At the Duke of Alba's is to be seen a very famous picture of Corregio, called the school of Cupid; it represents Venus giving the God of Love to be tutored by Mercury. There is also an holy family, said to be by Raphael; a charming Venus, by Velasquez, lying half reclined with her back to the spectator, and her face reflected in a mirror she holds in her hand. Among the portraits, the most curious are those of Anna Bullen, and the great Duke of Alba. Here are also very fine hangings, executed after the Cartoons of Raphael, which, with the Venus of Correggio, once formed part of the collection of that nice connoisseur and unskilful monarch, Charles the first of England.

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These pictures naturally lead me to speak of the royal palace; which I should have mentioned first, had I not wished to dispatch the lesser objects, that I might have nothing to think of that could interfere with the description of the noble collection in the new palace.

The old palace was burnt down to the ground in 1734, and Philip Juvara commissioned by Philip the fifth to give a plan for rebuilding it in the most splendid manner. The model he made is still existing, but was rejected on account of the immensity of the size, and the greatness of the expence, as well as of the want of sufficient room to place it, the king being determined on account of the air, to have it rebuilt on the exact spot where the old one stood. Juvara dying before he could prepare a second design, his disciple Sachetti produced that which has been carried into execution; both his and his master's plans have the defect of being clumsy and confused in the windows, pilasters, and ornaments; where they have aimed at simplicity, they have sunk their architecture under a load of stone, and where they have studied to be rich and light, they have generally given into the capricious rather than the beautiful.

It is all of white stone. Each of the fronts being four hundred and seventy feet in length, by an hundred high, this pile towers over all the country, where nothing intercepts the view for many miles. The entrances

trances and ground-floor appear more like those of some mighty fortrefs, than of the peaceable habitation of a powerful monarch, an hundred leagues removed from his frontiers. The range of large glazed arches round the inner court, refembles the infide of a manufactory: this is the more unpardonable, as they had at no great diftance in the Alcazar of Toledo, as elegant a colonnade as the nicest critic could defire. The beautiful circular court of Granada might have fuggefted noble ideas to the architect, but probably at that time, the very exiftence of fuch a thing was a fecret at Madrid.

The ftair-cafe was meant to be double, but it was afterwards judged more convenient to fhut up one flight, as the remaining half answered every purpofe. At the foot of the ftairs I fhall leave all my fpleen, and prepare myfelf with unfeigned fatisfaction to describe to you the beauty and grandeur of the upper apartments. I know no palace in Europe, fitted up with fo much true royal magnificence. The ceilings are chef-d'œuvres of Mengs, Corrado, and Tiepolo. The richeft marbles are employed with great tafte in forming the cornices and focles of the rooms, and the frames of the doors and windows. What enhances the value of thefe marbles, is the circumftance of their being all produced in the quarries of Spain, from whence

it is the opinion of a learned writer, that ancient Rome was supplied with many of the precious materials that enriched her porticoes and temples. At least, there is no presumption in asserting, that the bowels of the earth in Spain contain most of those species of marbles, alabasters, &c. that are to be seen in the ruins of the mistresses of the world, whatever might be the countries from which they were drawn. Porphyry is found near Cordova; the finest jasper near Aracena; the mountains of Granada furnish a beautiful green, those of Tortosa a variety of brown marbles; Leon and Malaga send alabaster; Toledo, Talavera, Badajoz, and Murviedro, abound in marbles of different colours; and most parts of the kingdom afford some specimen or other of jasper, besides the amethyst and its radix, for which Spain is celebrated above most other countries.

The great audience chamber is one of the richest I know. The ceiling, painted by Tiepolo, represents the triumph of Spain; round the cornice the artist has placed allegorical figures of its different provinces, distinguished by their productions, and attended by several of their inhabitants in the provincial habit; these form a most uncommon picture, and a curious set of *Costumi*. The walls are incrustated with beautiful marble, and all round hung with large plates of looking-glass
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in rich frames. The manufactory of glass is at Saint Ildefonso, where they cast them of a very great size; but I am told they are apt to turn out much rougher and more full of flaws than those made in France.

A collection of pictures, by the greatest masters of the art, adorns the walls of the inner apartments; but even this vast fabric does not afford room for all the riches his Catholic Majesty possesses in this branch. The detail and catalogue of a number of paintings is sure to fatigue a reader who has never seen, nor can ever rationally expect to see them; therefore it is incumbent upon me to select only a few of my favorites from my memorandums.

The gallery of the Escorial is said to be still more valuable, especially as the famous picture of Raphael of the carrying the cross, called the Spasimo di Sicilia³², remains in this palace unplaced, and consequently unseen.

Of the works of Titian, the most remarkable are, a Bacchanalian woman lying on her back, asleep; the liquor has diffused a glow over her beautiful face, and her body is divinely handsome; one of the greatest painters of the age has often declared, he never passed before this picture without being struck with admira-

³² Raphael painted it for the Church of the Madonna dello Spasimo, or the mother of Dolours, in Sicily.

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tion. Some boys playing, full of grace and a charming variety of attitudes.

Rubens: Christ and St. John Baptist, lovely children. A priest on horseback, carrying the viaticum to a sick person, accompanied by Rodolph earl of Hapsburgh, one of the master-pieces of his pencil.

Murillo: A vintager, winefeller, holy family, two boys; all in their different characters, excellently painted with a rich mellow colour.

Vandyke: The seizing of Christ in the garden, a strong composition; several portraits absolutely alive.

Spagnolet: Isaac feeling Jacob's hands; very capital.

Velasquez: Many portraits. His genius shines most conspicuous in the equestrian figure of the Conde Duque Olivares, prime minister of Philip the fourth, which I really think the best portrait I ever beheld: I know not which most to admire; the chiaro scuro, the life and spirit of the rider, or the natural position and fire of the horse. Another of a young prince also on horseback, is a beautiful piece: the little cavalier sits upright, and seems proud of his exalted station; but the fixed serious cast of his features, betrays the apprehension he feels of his prancing steed. The water-seller of Saville, an admirable old figure; some women spinning; and Velasquez himself drawing the portrait of an Infanta.

Mengs:

Mengs: Many fine things, which, even in this rare collection, do not seem intruders; most of them represent devout lugubrious events, the most gloomy of which, such as the flagellation and crucifixion, have been chosen by the king to adorn his bed-chamber. Among the profane and allegorical subjects he has treated, I was much delighted with four light airy genii over the doors, representing the different parts of the day.

The last pictures I shall mention, in order to close my catalogue with eclat, are an holy family, and a Christ praying in the garden, by Correggio, not inferior to any of the small-sized works of that child of the graces. Of the last-mentioned piece I have seen more than one repetition. In the Capodimonte collection near Naples, is one exactly similar.

I have passed over many excellent pictures by a crowd of Italian and Flemish painters, that would hold the first rank in most other galleries.

In the magazines and store-rooms lie unsorted, a number of pictures, sufficient to furnish such another suite of apartments.

At the bottom of the palace-yard is an old building, called the Armeria, containing a curious assortment of antique arms and weapons, kept in a manner that would have made poor Cornelius Scriblerus swoon at every step;

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no notable house-maid in England has her fire-grates half so bright as these coats of mail; they shew those of all the heroes that dignify the annals of Spain; those of St. Ferdinand, Ferdinand the Catholic, his wife Isabella, Charles the fifth, the great captain Gonsalo, the king of Granada, and many others. Some suits are embossed with great nicety. The temper of the sword-blades is quite wonderful; for you may lap them round your waist like a girdle. The art of tempering steel in Toledo, was lost about seventy years ago, and the project of reviving and encouraging it, is one of the favourite schemes of Charles the third, who has erected proper works for it on the banks of the Tagus.

As the new palace stands on the brow of a steep hill, and is hemmed in very close behind by the buildings of the town, it became necessary to open a communication with the vale of Mançanarés below, that his Majesty might go into the country without passing through the whole city of Madrid. In order to effect this, they have cut a broad road, with an easy ascent from the river to the palace, and adorned it at the foot of the hill with a kind of triumphal arch, dedicated to St. Vincent. This expence might have been saved, as well as the many thousands of dollars buried in the vaults and substructions that serve as foundations to the ponderous mass of buildings which compose the palace,
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had the kings thought proper to re-build or embellish their house at the Buenretiro, on the hill east of Madrid³³. Instead of being cramped for room, even for a walk or a terrace, they would there have had a large garden ready planted, and space behind to stretch out

³³ The finishing and fitting up of the new palace has, in all probability, saved Madrid from ruin, by fixing the court of Spain to this spot. The king intended to have removed it for ever to Seville and the southern provinces, after the sedition of Madrid, when the populace rose in consequence of the order for cleaning the streets, and the prohibition of flouched hats and large cloaks. His surprize, resentment, and indignation, would certainly have induced him to retire for ever from so barbarous a metropolis, to the milder climate of Andalusia, had not his minister, unwilling that so much treasure should have been lavished in the improvements of the palaces in Castile to no manner of purpose, and loath to abandon to destruction so many darling creations of his own, prevailed on his royal master to conquer his anger, and alter his determination. But the king still retains so much spleen against Madrid, as to dislike to sojourn in it; and indeed, he escapes from it as often as decency will allow him. It was said at the time, that many persons of rank were mingled in disguise among the mob, to encourage them to proceed to extremities; but this seems a groundless report. It is very remarkable, that during the greatest ferment of the sedition, all parties retired, as if by mutual consent, about dinner-time, to take their usual nap or meridia; after which they returned to the charge with fresh vigour, and redoubled fury, resumed their clamours, and repeated their outrages. The military force finally quelled the tumult, and the king carried his point. Every blackguard now loiters about with his hat pinned up triangularly; but the moment he gets out of town, and beyond the bounds of the proclamation, he indulges himself in flapping it down on all sides.

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their improvements as many miles as they could wish. The air in both situations must be equally good, and for any thing there is to see in the adjacent country, which is the only difference the new palace can boast of, I should think it rather a disadvantage than a recommendation: surely the view from the retiro towards the best part of the city, with a full command of the public walks, is much grander and more agreeable than a stretch over twenty leagues of ill-cultivated depopulated hills.

The palace of the Buenretiro is now stripped of all its best pictures and furniture. The buildings are poor, and unworthy of a sovereign, so that few parts of it could have been preserved in any judicious plan. The only remarkable things about it are the theatre, where Farinelli sang before a court, which he may be said to have governed as prime minister; a bronze statue of Charles the fifth; and an equestrian one of Philip the fourth, cast by Tacca at Florence; the posture of the horse curvetting, supported by his hind feet and tail, is very ingenious; and it appears difficult to conceive how the artist could contrive to preserve the equilibrium of such a mass, entirely thrown out of its perpendicular. The gardens are agreeable, and open to the public; one of the great ornaments of Madrid, is the fine iron railing that divides them from the walks
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of the Prado, and the road up the hill to the gate of Alcala, a new arch designed by Sabatini; this gate is rather heavy, but perhaps its situation requires the parts to be very solid, in order to produce a grand effect from the proper point of view; at least it ensures to them, an almost eternal duration.

In the shallow vale between the retiro and the town, which has not the least suburb of any kind belonging to it, the present king has finished the Prado, which in a few years, provided they manage the trees properly, will be one of the finest walks in the world. Its length and breadth are great, the avenues drawn in an intelligent noble style, the foot paths wide and neat, the iron railing and stone seats done in a grand expensive manner. All the coaches in Madrid drive in the ring here; and though the absence of the court lessens the appearance more than two-thirds, yet last night I counted two hundred carriages following each other. On the declivity of the retiro, they mean to plant a botanical garden.

The view from this walk is, as it should be, confined; for the winds are so sharp and boisterous, and the landscape so horrid all round the city, that no place of public resort could be comfortable, unless it were, like this, shut in from all distant views, and sheltered by the hills from the blasts that sweep over the highlands of Castille. To

the west, it has the town, the three principal streets of which terminate in the Prado; there are three noble openings, excellently paved, and clean even to a nicety, indeed so are most of the streets of Madrid since the edict for paving and cleaning them; the foreigners that resided here before that time, shudder at the very recollection of its former filth. Some of the natives regret the old stinks and nastiness, as they pretend that the air of Madrid is so subtle, as to require a proper mixture of a grosser effluvia to prevent its pernicious effects upon the constitution. The extremes of cold and heat are astonishing in this place, and the winds so searching, that all the Spaniards wear leathern under-waistcoats to preserve their chests, for they pervade every other kind of cloathing. In summer the dust is intolerable.

To the east and north the heights of the retiro defend the Prado from cold. The walk extends from the gate of Saint Barbara to that of Atocha, and there joins an older avenue of trees, which reaches down to the new canal and the banks of the Mançanarés. This canal is a late undertaking, that has hitherto answered very well: near two leagues of it down the valley is navigable; and the transporting of lime, stones, and other materials for building, the plantations of mulberries and other trees, and the sale of a right of angling

angling, have already produced substantial advantages. The king has almost completed his communication highway between the Aranjuez road and the gate of Saint Vincent. It crosses the ends of the bridges called, on account of the places they lead to, the bridges of Toledo and Segovia; they are long and lofty, but decorated in the most wretched of all tastes; many writers have ridiculed them as immense piles of arches thrown over an insignificant rivulet, but the truth is, the Mançanarés sometimes swells to a great height, and pours down a terrible volume of water; the sands it has already washed down have almost choaked up some of the arches, and these high bridges may in time prove too low for the little brook.

In the broken banks south of the river are found large quantities of pebbles, called Diamonds of Saint Hidro. They cut them like precious stones, and ladies of the first fashion wear them in their hair as pins, or on their fingers as rings. They have little or no lustre, and a very dead glassy water. The value of the best rough stone does not exceed a few pence.

Opposite the new gate below the palace, is the royal park of the Casa del campo. The villa is a building of no consequence; the woods are wild and pleasant, though not so extensive as they might be made with a little attention: in the court is a grand equestrian statue

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tue of Philip the third, by John of Bologna; and in the rooms are many pictures, among others the original of Callot's temptation of Saint Anthony. In the menagery are some Vicuñas or Peruvian sheep, from whose wool a very fine filky cloth is woven, and made up into winter cloaths without being dyed; it is of a rich brown colour, and sells very dear.

L E T T E R XLII.

Madrid, June 5, 1776:

IT has been my constant study, during our tour round Spain, to note down and transmit to you every peculiarity that might throw light upon the distinctive turn and genius of the nation. Experience has taught me to look upon this method as the best, and indeed the only sure guide to the knowledge of a people; but at the same time, has made me sensible how imperfect an idea is to be acquired by a transitory view, in a progress of a few months. Customs that struck me at first as unaccountable, from my ignorance of motives and situations, have frequently since appeared to me

me not only proper and rational, but absolutely so much in the common course of things, that I have wondered how I came to put them down as extraordinary. The mistakes I have found myself guilty of in several little remarks made in the first part of my journey, have rendered me very cautious of deciding upon matters, where I could not come at a knowledge of their causes. I therefore very early learned to mistrust my senses, and applied where I expected to have my doubts resolved, and the reasons of modes and usages explained to me. Accordingly I omitted no opportunity of drawing information from the natives of all ranks; from strangers long established in Spain, and from those who having resided but a few years here, were more likely to be sensible of the singularities of the national disposition. I cannot say my endeavours have been crowned with much success. Were I to draw the picture of the Spaniards from the manifold sketches traced by their countrymen, every province in the kingdom would in its turn appear a Paradise, and a Pandæmonium, a seat of holy spirits, and a receptacle of malicious devils; the most contradictory accounts, enforced by the most positive asseverations, have been repeatedly given me of the same places. I have often found the virtue one province prides itself in, as being the specific mark of its inhabitants, not only refused them

them by a neighbouring country, but the very opposite vice imposed upon them as their characteristic. The English, French, and other foreigners, living in Spain, are in general but indifferently qualified to decide upon these matters: as long as they retain the prejudices they brought from home against every thing that clashes with their native customs, they are but partial judges; and when once they fall into the ways of the place where commerce has fixed their lot, they become such thorough-paced Spaniards, that they can neither perceive the particularities you speak to them of, nor assign reasons for uses that are grown habitual to them.

As I am not ashamed to acknowledge my insufficiency, I frankly confess it is not in my power to give what you may think a satisfactory character of the Spaniards. Were I inclined to flatter my self-love, I might add, that I do not esteem any of those who have already written on the subject, much better qualified than myself. What I can venture to say, amounts to very little.

The Catalans appear to be the most active stirring set of men, the best calculated for business, travelling, and manufactories. The Valencians a more sullen, sedate race, better adapted to the occupations of husbandmen, less eager to change place, and of a much more timid, suspicious cast of mind than the former.

The Andalufians ³⁴ seem to me the great talkers and rodomontadoes of Spain. The Castillians have a manly frankness, and less appearance of cunning and deceit. The new Castillians are perhaps the least industrious of the whole nation; the old Castillians are laborious, and retain more of ancient simplicity of manners; both are of a firm determined spirit. I take the Aragonese to be a mixture of the Castillian and Catalan, rather inclining to the former. The Biscayners are acute and diligent, fiery, and impatient of controul; more resembling a colony of republicans, than a province of an absolute monarchy. The Galicians are a plodding pains-taking race of mortals, that roam over Spain in search of an hardly-earned subsistence.

The listless indolence equally dear to the uncivilized savage, and to the degenerate slave of despotism, is no where more indulged than in Spain; thousands of men in all parts of the realm are seen to pass their whole day, wrapped up in a cloak, standing in rows against a wall, or dosing under a tree. In total want of every excitement to action, the springs of their intellectual faculties forget to play; their views grow

³⁴ Andalufiá is derived from the Arabic, and means a *dark evening western country*. It was a name generally given by the Saracens to all Spain, and agrees with that of Hesperia, which it was known by among the Greeks.

confined within the wretched sphere of mere existence, and they scarce seem to hope or foresee any thing better than their present state of vegetation; they feel little or no concern for the welfare or glory of a country, where the surface of the earth is engrossed by a few over-grown families, who seldom bestow a thought on the condition of their vassals. The *poor* Spaniard does not work, unless urged by irresistible want, because he perceives no advantage accrue from industry. As his food and raiment are purchased at a small expence, he spends no more time in labour, than is absolutely necessary for procuring the scanty provision his abstemiousness requires. I have heard a peasant refuse to run an errand, because he had that morning earned as much already as would last him the day, without putting himself to any further trouble.

Yet I am convinced that this laziness is not essentially inherent in the Spanish composition; for it is impossible without seeing them, to conceive with what eagerness they pursue any favourite scheme, with what violence their passions work upon them, and what vigour and exertion of powers they display when awakened by a bull-feast, or the more constant agitation of gaming, a vice to which they are superlatively addicted. Were it again possible, by an intelligent, spirited administration, to set before their eyes, in a clear and forcible manner,

manner, proper incitements to activity and industry, the Spaniards might yet be roused from their lethargy, and led to riches and reputation; but I confess the task is so difficult, that I look upon it rather as an Utopian idea, than as a revolution likely ever to take place.

Their soldiers are brave, and patient of hardships; wherever their officers lead them, they will follow without flinching, though it be up to the mouth of a battery of cannon; but unless the example be given them by their commander, not a step will they advance.

Most of the Spaniards are hardy; and when once engaged, go through difficulties without murmuring, bear the inclemencies of the seasons with firmness, and support fatigue with amazing perseverance. They sleep every night in their cloaks on the ground; are sparing in diet, perhaps more from a sense of habitual indigence, than from any aversion to gluttony; whenever they can riot in the plenty of another man's table, they will gormandize to excess, and not content with eating their fill, will carry off whatever they can stuff into their pockets. I have more than once been a witness to the pillage of a supper, by the numerous beaux and admirers which the ladies lead after them in triumph, wherever they are are invited. They are fond of spices,

and scarce eat any thing without saffron, pimento, or garlic ; they delight in wine that tastes strong of the pitched skin, and of oil that has a rank smell and taste ; indeed, the same oil feeds their lamp, swims in their pottage, and dresses their sallad : in inns the lighted lamp is frequently handed down to the table, that each man may take the quantity he chooses. Much tobacco is used by them in smoking and chewing. All these hot drying kinds of food, co-operating with the parching qualities of the atmosphere, are assigned as causes of the spare make of the common people in Spain, where the inn-keepers are almost the only well-fed, portly figures to be met with.

The Spanish is by no means naturally a serious, melancholy nation : misery and discontent have cast a gloom over them, increased, no doubt, by the long habit of distrust and terror inspired by the inquisition ; yet every village still resounds with the music of voices and guitars ; and their fairs and Sunday wakes are remarkably noisy and riotous. They talk louder, and argue with more vehemence than even the French or Italians, and gesticulate with equal, if not superior eagerness. In Catalonia, the young men are expert at ball ; and every village has its *Pelota* or ground for playing at fives ; but in the south of Spain, I never perceived that the inhabitants used any particular exercise. I am told,

told, that in the island of Majorca they still wield the fling, for which their ancestors, the Baleares, were so much renowned.

Like most people of southern climates, they are dirty in their persons, and over-run with vermin.

The very mention of horns is an insult, and the sight of them makes their blood boil. As their constitution may be said to be made up of the most combustible ingredients, and prone to love in a degree that natives of more northern latitudes can have no idea of, the custom of embracing persons of the other sex, which is used on many occasions by foreigners, sets the Spaniards all on fire. They would as soon allow a man to pass the night in bed with their wives or daughters, as suffer him to give them a kiss; and indeed, I believe the ladies themselves would look upon that favour as a certain prelude to others of greater consequence. Next to accusing a Spaniard of wearing horns, nothing can give him such offence, as to suspect him of having an issue.

I was surprized to find them so much more lukewarm in their devotion than I expected; but I will not take upon me to assert, though I have great reason to believe it, that there is in Spain as little true moral religion as in any country I ever travelled through, although none abounds more with provincial protectors,

tors, local Madonnas, and altars celebrated for particular cures and indulgences : Religion is a topic not to be touched, much less handled with any degree of curiosity, in the dominions of so tremendous a tribunal as the Inquisition. From what little I saw, I am apt to suspect, that the people here trouble themselves with very few serious thoughts on the subject ; and that, provided they can bring themselves to believe that their favourite Saint looks upon them with an eye of affection, they take it for granted, that, under his benign influence, they are freed from all apprehensions of damnation in a future state ; and indeed, from any great concern about the moral duties of this life. The burning zeal, which distinguished their ancestors above the rest of the Catholic world, appears to have lost much of its activity, and really seems nearly extinguished. It is hard to ascribe bounds to the changes a crafty, steady, and popular monarch might make in ecclesiastical matters. The unconcern betrayed by the whole nation at the fall of the Jesuits, is a strong proof of their present indifference. Those fathers, the most powerful body politic in the kingdom, the rulers of the palace, and the despots of the cottage, the directors of the conscience, and disposers of the fortune of every rank of men, were all seized in one night, by detachments of soldiers, hurried like malefactors to the sea-ports,

sea-ports, and banished for ever from the realm, without the least resistance to the royal mandate being made, or even threatened. Their very memory seems to be annihilated with their power.

We found the common people inoffensive, if not civil; and having never had an opportunity of being witnesses to any of their excesses, can say nothing of their violent love, jealousy, or revenge, which are points most writers on Spain have expatiated upon with great pleasure. I believe in this line, as well as in many others, their bad as well as good qualities have been magnified many degrees above the truth.

The most furious example of passion and cruelty that I heard of, happened a few years ago at San Lucas. A Carmelite friar fell desperately in love with a young woman, to whom he was confessor. He tried every art of seduction his desires could suggest to him; but to his unspeakable vexation, found her virtue or indifference proof against all his machinations. His despair was heightened to a pitch of madness, upon hearing that she was soon to be married to a person of her own rank in life. The furies of jealousy seized his soul, and worked him up to the most barbarous of all determinations, that of depriving his rival of the prize, by putting an end to her existence. He chose Easter week for the perpetration of his crime. The unsuspecting;

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pecting girl came to the confessional, and poured out her soul at his feet ; her innocence served only to inflame his rage the more, and to confirm him in his bloody purpose. He gave her absolution and the sacrament with his own hands, as his love deterred him from murdering her, before he thought she was purified from all stain of sin, and her soul fit to take its flight to the tribunal of its Creator ; but his jealousy and revenge urged him to pursue her down the church, and plunge his dagger in her heart, as she turned round to make a genuflection to the altar. He was immediately seized, and soon condemned to die ; but lest his ignominious execution should reflect dishonour on a religious order, which boasts of having an aunt of the king of France among its members, his sentence was changed into perpetual labour among the galley-slaves of Portorico.

The national qualities, good and bad, conspicuous in the lower classes of men, are easily traced, and very discernible in those of higher rank ; for their education is too much neglected, their minds too little enlightened by study or communication with other nations, to rub off the general rust, with which the Spanish genius has, for above an age, been, as it were, incrustated. The public schools and universities are in a despicable state of ignorance and irregularity.

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Some feeble hope of future reformation is indulged by patriots; but time must shew what probabilities they are grounded upon ³⁵.

The reigns of Charles the fifth and Philip the second, were the times of great men and good authors, the Spanish Augustan age; and perhaps continued a few years under Philip the third. Since those days, it is difficult to point out any original work of learning or merit, except those of Cervantes and la Vega, who survived the rest of the geniuses of that period.

Hitherto the academies, and societies of *friends to*

³⁵ Since I left Spain, a reform has taken place in the great colleges, notwithstanding a strenuous opposition. In 1771 Cédulas had already been issued out for visiting and examining the great foundations; as his majesty had been informed of the decline of the Universities for above a century, of the great disorders that had crept into their constitutions, and of the contagion which had spread among other literary bodies, to the great prejudice of public education, and of the state. The Cédula for the reformation is signed in April 1777. The colleges to be reformed are, Santa Cruz in Valladolid, Saint Ildefonso in Alcala, Saint Bartholomé, San Salvador de Oviedo, Santiago de Cuenca, and Santiago del Arzobispo, in Salamanca. These six colleges were linked together in a strict union, and formed a more powerful and compact body than the Jesuits. They had sufficient interest to procure for their own members most of the good things in church and state, and had a majority in every council and tribunal of Spain. Instead of maintaining poor scholars and professors, their immense rents, tythes, and dues, were portioned out among themselves. They are reduced to their original institutions: their old statutes are confirmed, or new modelled to the times; and poverty, which for many years had been a sure plea for exclusion, is restored to its primitive claim.

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their country, the *Amigos del pais*, have gone on but slowly in their improvements in literature and agriculture. I doubt they have not yet got into a proper method; for they undertake many things, and finish none. Their great dictionary is a glaring proof of my assertion. They have now in hand an edition of Don Quixote, with prints taken from original drawings of the dresses and landscapes of the country, which has employed all their engravers for some time past; but they will, in all probability, be called off to some new scheme before this be ready for publication. The works of Calderon have been lately reprinted; and they have begun a new edition of Lopez de la Véga, on excellent paper, and with very fine types; Printing seems of late, to be the branch they most excel in.

The catalogue of living authors is confined to a very small number.

Don Francisco Perez Bayér, preceptor to the infants and archdeacon of Valencia, may be placed in the first line of Spanish literati. He is author of a dissertation on the Phenician language, added to the translation of Sallust by the infant Don Gabriel. He is a man of learning, a very good Greek and Latin scholar, well acquainted with the Hebrew and Arabic tongues, and moreover a modest man, of a friendly and communicative disposition; he has travelled through Italy,
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and acquired more enlarged notions with respect to foreigners, than usually fall to the share of the Spaniards.

Don Gregorio Mayans y Siscar, of Valencia, formerly librarian at Madrid, and now an honorary *Alcalde de corte*, is likewise a scholar of great knowledge and liberal sentiments. He has published several editions of classic authors, grammars, dissertations, tracts and commentaries on the civil law, a life of Cervantes, of Dean Marti, and others.

Don Miguel Casiri's Bibliotheca Hisp. Escorial, certainly entitles him to some merit in the knowledge of Oriental literature. He is of a Syromaronite family, from mount Libanon, but born at Tripoly, and educated in the Maronite college at Rome.

Don Pedro Rodriguez Campomanés, fiscal of the council of Castille, is likewise a man of letters. He has published something on most subjects in and out of his profession, from *Guias de postas y caminos*, to translations of Arabic and Greek. He assisted the Conde de Aranda in expelling the Jesuits, and seems well inclined to reform the other religious societies. This has made him many ecclesiastical enemies; ³⁶ and it is said,

³⁶ Freedom of speech on religious matters had risen to such an height in the coffee-houses of Madrid, that at last it reached the ears of the king, who sent for the inquisitor general, whom he reproached with his supine-

he has been admonished by the inquisition, which to the great astonishment of all the world, has lately acquired fresh strength, when most people were tempted to think it had lost its sting. Perhaps it is but a last effort before its final dissolution. The fiscal is of an active enterprising genius; he has lately published five or six volumes of ill-digested materials for the improvement of his country. Many of his schemes are good, but he lashes away at every thing in a bold loose manner. The origin of these books was a small tract, called *Industria popular*. which has brought forth four others, each three times as big as its parent, under the denomination of *appendixes*, *education*, and *second appendixes*. He is perhaps the ablest and most disinterested lawyer

in a concern of so important a nature. The bishop answered, that he looked upon his office as next to a sinecure; not having any expectation of support from government, should he attempt to exert his authority. The king gave him such assurances of being seconded by the secular arm, that the holy office seized upon an advocate, tried him for speaking against purgatory, and condemned him to eight years imprisonment in a convent. They might as well have hanged him; for the infamy that follows every accusation before that tribunal, even when the accused is declared innocent, is so great in the eyes of all persons whatever, that a man of any spirit had better be dead than thus lost in the esteem of the public. In order to make a display of their revived power, the inquisition summoned many great officers and others, suspected of free-thinking, to attend the trial, and be witnesses of the impartiality and candid behaviour of the court, and at the same time, of its resolution to enforce its authority by chastisement.

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in Spain, a country where every civil and criminal process is determined by weight of metal and interest, which they term *Empeños*. When a servant of Lord G's was wantonly murdered by an invalid soldier, the secretary of state told his lordship, that if he chose to have the offender hanged, there would be no difficulty, as a poor soldier could have no friends to apply or make *empeños* for him. In cases like these, justice may sometimes take its course, if they are not too lazy to execute it.

Don Antonio Ponz is publishing a tour through Spain, in which he enters into very prolix details; but as he writes for the instruction of his countrymen, whom the objects he treats of ought principally to interest, his minuteness cannot be imputed to him as a fault. His observations have already produced some good effects in correcting abuses, suggesting useful works, and reforming the vicious taste of the Spaniards in many points of architecture.

Don Antonio Ulloa, who in company with the late Don George Juan, travelled into Peru to assist the French academicians in ascertaining the figure of the globe, published an account of their tour; he has also given a treatise upon the native Indians of South America; in which he has degraded their capacities and sentiments almost to a level with the instinct of the brute species.

Mr.

Mr. Bowles, though not a Spaniard, is certainly to be ranked among the Spanish writers ; his natural history of Spain, though rather an introduction, and an assemblage of dissertations, than a complete work, has opened the career, and I hope will excite other persons learned in the secrets of Nature, to impart to the public their discoveries in the same study. Spain is so rich in all articles of natural history, that it alone affords as much matter for such a work as many other kingdoms put together.

I do not know whether I ought to mention Medina Conti, though a very learned man. He began his excavations in 1734, and all the inscriptions he published, except a few Roman ones, are arrant forgeries. Bayer, and the French Benedictine monks of Saint Maur, helped to detect him. I do not find he had any other object in view, than hopes of preferment ; to secure the king and his confessor, he forged the sentiments of the ancient council, which establishes the doctrine of an immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary. He was also concerned for the clergy in the famous law-suit of the Voto de Santiago, of which the following is a succinct account. In the year 938 Abdoulrahman, the third king of Cordova, made an irruption into Castille, and by the rapidity of his progress, and the multitude of his troops, threatened the Christians with
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utter destruction. In this emergency Ramiro the second, king of Leon, implored the succour of Saint James the apostle, and visited his tomb at Compostilla, in solemn penitential procession. The clergy have, by *all manner* of ways, endeavoured to prove, that in thankful remembrance of Santiago's kind assistance, by means of which he obtained a complete victory over the Moors, Ramiro the second obliged all his subjects to pay a portion of the produce of all their lands to the church of Compostilla, or, as it is worded in Spanish, *A la paya de custa medida de pan, vino y de mas semillas por cada junta que tubieren de labranza*. All this is flatly denied by the adverse or lay party, on the strength of the negative argument, that there is no proof; nay more, they call in question the very existence of the battle. The demand of the church is pretty large, for they pretend that not only what Ramiro then possessed, but also all that his successors have acquired since, becomes subject to the tax. On the other hand it is contended, that allowing all the ecclesiastical assertions to be true, the possessors of land of those times only would be liable to such a tribute, as it would be absurd to suppose Ramiro could have a right to give away what did not belong to him. The proceedings are already swelled to the size of a folio volume, and probably will increase, for it is not likely there should be an end put to the litigation,

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gation, as long as the first place in the council of Castille is filled by a canon of Santiago.

It is not in my power to extend the list of writers. The common education of an English gentleman would constitute a man of learning here; and should he understand Greek, he would be quite a phenomenon³⁷.

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³⁷ Though I make no doubt but the nation is much improved since 1722, yet I don't think it will be improper to transcribe some of the Dean of Alicant's strictures upon his countrymen at that period, as a Spaniard is very good authority, when he finds fault with Spaniards. These are his words in a letter to Count Scipio Maffei of Verona: "No country, except Italy, abounds more with ancient monuments than Spain: in every province you meet with remnants of bridges, aqueducts, temples, theatres, circusses, amphitheatres, and other public edifices; most of which have been reduced to their present deplorable condition by the outrages of the inhabitants, rather than by the injuries of time. Such is the nature and spirit of the Spaniards, that to overthrow the monuments of the Pagans or Romans, is accounted among them one of the most meritorious acts of piety, and most efficacious in drawing down upon them the blessing of the Almighty. Alas! such preposterous devotion! But how can it be otherwise in a kingdom which is ruled by the stupid idle monkish tribe; where it is thought a crime to deviate an inch from the rules laid down by the hooded blockheads. Whatever they sputter out, is revered as oracles of old, issuing from the Delphic tripod. The sluggards, puffed up with this nauseous adoration, thunder out the pains of hell against all such as so much as look with attention on an ancient statue. When any thing of the kind is dug up, their barbarous hands seize, break, deface it; and, lest the pure light of the sun should be defiled by the sight of such an abomination, it is burnt to lime, or buried again in the ground. If the bust of an emperor, a philosopher, or an orator, should happen to be discovered, they cry out, "'tis an idol! away with it! destroy it!" and instantly it undergoes the fate

As to the nobility I wonder how they ever learned to read or write; or having once attained so much, how they contrive not to forget it. It is difficult to say what they pass their time in; or what means, besides inattention to business, they employ in running through their immense incomes. In the great houses one custom may contribute to extravagance; a servant once established is never discharged, unless for some very enormous offence; he and his family remain pensioners as long as they live: the Duke of J. pays near ten thousand pounds sterling a year in wages and annuities to servants. The Grandees, one or two excepted, are diminished by a series of distempered progenitors to a race of pigmies, which dwindles away for lack of heirs, and tends gradually to an union of all the titles and estates upon the heads of one or two families. I think

fate of Dagon. The vulgar demolish all inscriptions, as they believe their characters are designed to confine some unclean spirits as guardians over hidden treasures. Immense are the quantities of inscriptions that have been defaced, or thrown back into the holes where they had lain hidden for so many ages. Superstition and ignorance combine to demolish every thing of the kind. Many were sent to France; and during the late war of the Succession, two English travellers freighted two ships with ancient monumental and historical inscriptions, which they had collected near Terragona."

Since the time of Dean Marti, Don John Celaya, rector of the university of Valencia, directed a number of Roman inscriptions to be buried in the foundations of the bridge of Serranos; and a much later instance of barbarism of the same kind, was exhibited by the Franciscan friars of S. Maria de pina, at Oliva.

the Conde de Altamira has no less than nineteen Grandeeships centered in his person. Though they all style themselves *de primera classe*, as it were, by way of distinctive pre-eminence over others of a lower degree; yet I believe no second or third class exists, and it would be a very gross insult to suppose any of them were of an inferior rank to the rest of the *corps*: some difference may perhaps be made in the degrees of popular respect paid to the descendants of the heroes that make a figure in the Spanish annals, and such Grandees as have been honoured with the dignity in later times. A Grandee can marry none but his equal. They all *thou* each other; and affect to appear backward in mixing in other company.

The Spanish women are in general little and thin; few are strikingly beautiful, but almost all have sparkling black eyes, full of expression. It is not the fashion here, as in France, to heighten their *eclat* with paint. They are endowed by nature with a great deal of wit and lively repartee, but for want of the polish and succours of education, their wit remains obscured by the rudest ignorance, and the most ridiculous prejudices. Their tempers having never been fashioned by polite intercourse, nor softened by necessary contradiction, are extremely pettish and violent. They are continually pouting for something or other, and put out of humour by the merest trifles. Most of the ladies about
court

court are the reverse of handsome, and do not seem to have any ambition of passing for clever or accomplished; not one talent do they possess; nor do they ever work, read, write, or touch any musical instrument; their *Cortejo*, or gallant, seems their only play-thing. I believe no country exhibits more bare-faced amours, and such an appearance of indelicate debauchery as this. The account given me of their manner of living in their family way, as soon as they come out of the convent, and before they have fixed upon a lover to fill up their time more agreeably, is as follows: they rise late, and loiter away the remains of the morning among their attendants, or wear it out at church in a long bead-roll of habitual unmeaning prayers; they dine sparingly, sleep, and then dress to saunter for a couple of hours on the Prado. They are never without some sort of sugar-plumb or high-spiced comfit in their mouths. As soon as it is dark, they run to the house of some elderly female relation, where they all huddle together over a pan of coals, and would not for the world approach the company that may occasionally drop in; it would throw them into the greatest confusion, were they to be requested to join in the conversation. The hour of the assembly passed, they hurry home to their maids, and with their help set about dressing their own suppers by way of amusement.

L E T T E R XLIII.

Segovia, June 10, 1776.

P REVIOUS to our departure from Madrid, we received from the ministers, by the particular order of his majesty, every permit and passport that could conduce to the comfort of our journey to the frontiers of France. We have leave to take out with us what specie we please, and the mules and horses we have purchased in the kingdom; our baggage is to pass unsearched. I think it my duty to acknowledge, with a grateful sense of the distinction, that during our stay near the court, the king shewed a very flattering anxiety that we should meet with no difficulties of any kind; and more than once enquired whether we had been shewn such and such things, and whether we were pleased with our reception, or in want of any thing to render the place agreeable. We are not a little proud of the honour; and I hope you will think our vanity too excusable to be any impeachment of the soundness of our understanding.

On the sixth we left Madrid. As we passed through the streets, we found great preparations made for the procession.

procession of Corpus Christi; among the rest, sets of girls dressed out in ribbons, dancing round may-poles.

We travelled through the park of the Casa del Campo, and over a bare corn country, leaving the forests of *El Pardo* and *La Sarsuela*, two royal hunting seats, on the right hand. The last miles of the road to the Escorial, which is exceedingly good, is also uncommonly pleasant, being carried through a very noble wood, where the deer are continually crossing and recrossing before you.

The aspect of this celebrated convent, situated in a corner of a lofty ridge of mountains, struck us with awe and pleasure. As we could not see the inside that evening, we enjoyed ourselves in walking round the gardens and fields. The landscape is very grand, for at a single view you command one of the largest edifices in the world, a boundless extent of woodlands, and a clear prospect of Madrid; and beyond all a vast tract of country that loses itself gradually in the horizon.

There are many minute descriptions of the ³⁸ Escorial

³⁸ Etymology of the word Escorial as explained by Casiri in his Bib. Hisp. Esc. "This is an Arabick word, meaning a place full of rocks, and the nature of the country agrees perfectly with it. It is to be written with an U and not an O, as the common way is. Those that derive it from the Scoria of iron forges, have no authority for supposing that there ever were any such iron works in that neighbourhood. Sarmiento very strangely interprets it, a Beech-grove, *Esculetum*."

extant in all languages ; let it therefore suffice to give you a general idea of this stupendous fabric and its treasures.

You have read that it was built by Philip the second, in consequence of a vow he made to Saint Laurence before the battle of Saint Quintin, which was fought on the tenth of August 1557. Though this story of the vow seems a little apocryphal, it may be supposed that Philip, in memory of so signal a victory gained by his troops over the French, might choose to dedicate to Saint Laurence, the patron of that day, the mausoleum he intended to erect in consequence of his father's dying request, therein to deposit the bones of that emperor, and of the empress Isabella. It was begun in 1562, and consists of several courts and quadrangles, which altogether are disposed in the shape of a gridiron, the instrument of the martyrdom of Saint Laurence : the apartment where the king resides forms the handle. The building is a long square of six hundred and forty feet by five hundred and eighty ; so that allowing besides four hundred and sixty for the projection of the chapel and king's quarter, the whole circumference comes to two thousand nine hundred Spanish feet. The height up to the roof is all round sixty feet, except on the garden side, where the ground is more taken away. At each angle is a square tower two hundred

hundred feet high. The number of windows in the west front is two hundred; in the east front, three hundred and sixty-six. The orders employed are Doric and Ionic; but the outward appearance of this vast mass is extremely plain, and I am sorry to say, in my eyes, very ugly. With its narrow high towers, small windows, and steep sloping roof, it certainly exhibits an uncouth style of architecture; but the domes, and the immense extent of its fronts, render it a wonderful grand object from every point of view. The best side to see it from, for I tried them all, is about half a mile down the hill on the Madrid road, as you are then so much below it that the building hides the bleak mountain, which presses very close upon it behind; the green fields and woods behind it, and the place you stand in, make a good contrast, and set it off to the best advantage.

The church, which is in the center of all, is large, awful, and richly, but not affectedly ornamented. The cupola is bold and light. The high altar is composed of rich marbles, agates, and jaspers of great rarity, the produce of this kingdom. Two magnificent *Catafalques* fill up the side arcades of this sanctuary: on one the emperor Charles the fifth, his wife, daughter, and two sisters, are represented in bronze, larger than life, kneeling; opposite are the effigies of Philip the second, and of his three wives, of the same materials, and in the same devout attitude.

Underneath

Underneath is the burial-place of the royal family, called the Pantheon. Twenty-five steps lead down to this vault, over the door of which is a very classical inscription, denoting that

Hic locus facer mortalitatis exuvii Catholicorum Regum, &c.

was intended by Charles the emperor, resolved upon by Philip the second, begun by Philip the third, and completed by Philip the fourth. The mausoleum is circular, thirty-six feet diameter, incrusted with fine marbles in an elegant taste. The bodies of the kings and queens lie in tombs of marble, in niches, one above the other. There are twenty-six of these urns, but as yet only thirteen are filled; the two last kings, and all the queens that died without issue, being buried elsewhere. The plan of these sepulchres is grand, and executed with a princely magnificence; but I own I could not help finding them too gay, too light, and too delicately fitted up for the idea we are apt to form of a chapel destined for the reception of the dead. Accustomed to feel a kind of horror on our approach to any place that reminds us of the painful dissolution of our being, we naturally expect something serious and awful in the appearance of such a repository.

The princes and princesses of the royal family lie in two side-vaults near the entrance of the Pantheon.

The collection of pictures dispersed about various parts

parts of the church, sacristy, and convent, surpassed my expectations; and I think I may venture to pronounce it equal, if not superior to any gallery in Europe, except that of Dresden. Formed out of the spoils of Italy, and the wasted cabinet of that unfortunate dilettante Charles the first of England, it contains some of the most capital works of the greatest painters that have flourished since the revival of the art. It would be a very useless trouble for me, and no entertainment to you, were I to copy out a catalogue of them, as you may find it at full length in many books. I shall just note down some of the principal pictures in the order we saw them, under the guidance of one of the Hieronymite monks.

In the Aulill. A glory by Titian, in which he has introduced Charles the fifth and Philip the second, as suppliants, not as saints: there is a great and noble effect in this large composition. By the same hand, a burial of Christ, and a Saint Margaret, which they have spoilt by painting a cloth to cover her naked thigh, which the scrupulous thought an indecent and dangerous sight in a convent of the votaries of penance and chastity: these are high coloured and strongly painted. A very fine piece, by *El Mudo*, of some Christians coming by stealth in the night to carry off the body of Saint Laurence; the fears, caution, and silence, of

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those employed, are admirably expressed; and the light given by a single torch is distributed with great judgment over the whole; the saint's body seems to be roasted to a turn.

In the Chapter-house. By Spagnolet, a Saint John playing with a lamb, and smiling with exquisite grace. An annunciation, a chef-d'œuvre of Baroccio. Christ giving his blessing, a fine half length, by Titian.

In the Vicar's Hall. Jacob's sons shewing him Joseph's bloody garment, esteemed the best picture of Velasquez: indeed the composition, expression, and intelligence, of Chiaro-scuro are wonderful; the agony and surprize of the father is life itself.

In the Prior's Hall. A dead Christ, by Rubens; the figure of Mary Magdalen, and the dead body are painted in his best manner. The Centurion kneeling to Christ, by Paul Veronese; the best picture of the Venetian school in the Escorial: the characters are noble, the architecture magnificent. The crowning of thorns by Vandyke, in which the tents, semitents, and transparency of colour, are more admired than the choice of his figures; the boy peeping through a grate, is incomparable, almost a deception. An holy family, by Rubens; which would strike one more were it not so near another on the same subject, by Raphael, which by its grace and beauty eclipses all the merit of the
Ultramontane

Ultramontane master. Another Madonna in glory, by Guido; one of the most precious pictures in the collection: the Virgin is full of soft majesty, the Christ supernaturally pensive. The ceilings of these rooms are executed with great airiness, taste, and beauty, after designs made in imitation of those of the Vatican.

In the Outward Sacristy. The piece that pleased me most, is a *Riposo*, by Titian; in which the back-ground is one of the finest landscapes imaginable.

In the Sacristy are so many capital pictures, I scarce know which to give the second place to, for the first is undoubtedly due to the *Madonna della Perla*, by the divine Raphael. This was part of the spoil of the English royal collection; the king of Spain was so much enchanted with it, when it was brought to him, that he gave it the name of *Perla mia*, by which it has been distinguished ever since. The Virgin Mary is presented, sitting with her right hand, holding the infant Jesus under the arms, who has one leg upon her knee, and the other resting upon some white linen thrown carelessly over a cradle. The Virgin's left hand reposes on the shoulder of Saint Anne, who kneels by her daughter's left side, and forms a most perfect groupe, with the figures and the cradle; the old saint leans upon her hand, which is supported on the knee of the Madonna. Saint John Baptist advances on the other

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side to offer some fruit in a skin ; Jesus reaches out his hand to take it, but at the same time turns round to look at his mother, with all the joy and graceful simplicity natural to a beautiful child of that age. Behind is a small figure of Saint Joseph among ruins ; the fore-ground is rich in flowers, the back-ground in variegated landscape ; the characters of face divine ; the folds of the drapery large and flowing ; the colours harmonious ; the lights thrown in admirably ; and the figures and attitudes beyond all powers of description³⁹. After this, I can with difficulty bring myself to remember or reflect on the other valuable pictures in the hall, such as a Madonna giving suck, by Guido ; an apparition of Christ to Mary Magdalen, by Correggio ; Christ and the Pharisee, by Titian ; another holy family, by Raphael ; another, by Andrea del Sarto (which for design, composition, and beauty of tints, may be ranked with his master-pieces) ; a visitation, by Raphael ; a washing of the feet, by Tintoret. I should never have done if I were to describe minutely the beauties of the above-mentioned pieces ; I must content myself with saying, that they are chef-d'œuvres of those divine masters ; and that any one of them would give a

³⁹ Raphael is thought by many to have painted the Madonna, and his Scholars the rest upon his designs.

name and relief to the best private collection. At the end of the Sacristy is an altar, called *La santa Forma*; this is a kind of Tabernacle or *Custioda*, of gems, marbles, woods, and other precious materials, inlaid in gilt bronze; in which, rather than in the excellence of the workmanship, or taste of the design, consists the merit of this rock of riches. Before it hangs a curtain, on which Coello has represented Charles the second, and all his court in procession, coming to place this *Forma*. This is undoubtedly one of the most curious collections of portraits in the world; for all the persons are drawn with the greatest strength of colour and truth of expression, and are said to be perfect resemblances not only of the monarch and grandees, but even of the monks, servants, and guards.

In the Old Church, so called, because divine service was performed in it while the other was painting; a martyrdom of Saint Laurence, and a Mater Dolorosa, by Titian, are capital. Here also hangs the celebrated *Madonna del Pesce* of Raphael, one of the most valuable pictures in the world. I do not know how Amiconi came to doubt of its originality; but his arguments are sufficiently refuted, and justice done to the picture, in a letter from Mr. Henry, published three years ago, in the *Viago de España*, by Ponz. The personages that compose the subject are the Virgin Mary seated, with her
son

son in her arms; on her right, the angel Raphael introduces Tobit, who kneeling presents the fish, which gives name to the whole; on the other side, stands Saint Jerome, in the habit of a cardinal, kneeling near a lion. This picture was brought from Naples, by order of Philip the fourth. Mr. Henry rates it above all the rest of the collection. Some connoisseurs have preferred the *Perla*, but I believe without sufficient cause.

The statues, busts, and medallions of the Escorial, are not in any great number, nor very remarkable for their excellence. The statue of Saint Laurence in the church is good and simple. Many have taken it for an antique, but the only part likely to be so is the head, and that I suspect to have belonged to a Bacchus; were it the statue of Saint Denis, this would not surprize me, as in the many stops he made to rest himself, when he carried his head about, he might be supposed to have mislaid his own, and taken up another in its stead.

They shewed us some original writings of saints; among the rest a wretched scrawl of Saint Teresa, the mystical reformatrix of the Carmelite nuns.

The Library contains a most precious collection of manuscripts, many fine drawings, and other curiosities, which we had not leisure to peruse as much as we could have wished.

Notwithstanding

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Notwithstanding the coldness of the exposition of this convent, the king, for the sake of hunting, passes here several months of the year. To make the place less inconvenient to his attendants and the nobility, he has built an entire new town adjoining to it; but in spite of all he can do, the Escorial will always remain a most uncomfortable habitation for winter residence.

From the Escorial we came along the south foot of the mountains that separate the two Castilles, crossed the great Burgos road, and took up our night's quarters at a venta in the heart of the rocks and mountains, among forests of aged nodding pines. Next morning, we travelled many hours over the woody heights of the *Puerto* or passage of *Fuenfrio*, where the snow was still very deep on the summits of the mountains. Some of the turns and views through the groves are charming; now and then such prospects over the plains of Old Castille, the town of Segovia, and the palace of Riofrio⁴⁰, opened upon us, as astonished us by their beauty and novelty. We arrived for dinner at Saint Ildefonso, and found orders had been sent before for our immediate admission to the palace, water-works, and other curiosities of the place.

⁴⁰ Begun, but never finished, by Elizabeth Paruese, Queen Dowager of Spain.

This palace was much embellished and favoured by Philip the fifth, who spent much treasure in forcing Nature, and rendering it in some sort an imitation of what he remembered to have seen in the garden of Versailles. His son Ferdinand abandoned it to his mother in law. The court now comes here in the hot months of summer, as it is a remarkable cool spot, being fenced from the hot south winds by a ridge of very high snowy mountains, and situated in the bottom of a vale open to the north. But this situation exposes it to such sudden and frequent changes of temperature and seasons in the course of a few hours, that it is often necessary to shift from cloth to silk, and from silk to cloth, twice or thrice a day; and these transitions are sometimes productive of colics, and other serious disorders.

A romantic brook rolls over the rocks at no great distance from the town, through a large tract of thickets, and serves his majesty as a fishing-place. A walk is cut along the sides for a mile or two, and very much resembles modern English improvement. The quantity of fine water is one great recommendation to Saint Ildefonso. The palace is patch-work, and no part of the architecture agreeable. In the apartments is a very numerous collection of pictures; but that we had just left at the Escorial made us perhaps undervalue these.

these. I took notes of some that pleased me, but I will not pretend to say they are the only ones worthy of admiration. A small head of Portia, by Guido, a most pathetic countenance. Saint Anne teaching the Virgin Mary to read; a charming picture, by Murillo, mellow, true, and expressive. A Magdalen's head, by M. Angelo; S. Francis Xavierius, by Spagnolet; a Boy, by Murillo; a Roman Charity, by Spagnolet; Landscapes, by Claude Lorrain and Wouvermans; Animals, by Rosa di Tivoli.

In the Gallery below are many fine statues, busts, and bas-reliefs. The best are, a groupe of Castor and Pollux sacrificing; one of them has his left arm over the shoulder of his brother, and with his right pours something out of a patera on an altar, where the other twin is lighting a torch with his right, while he brandishes another with his left hand; this is a noble piece of antiquity. A Venus kneeling on a tortoise, and anointing her head with a phial of ointment. Seneca seated. Mercury with a boy. A bust of Alexander dying, and another of Antinous.

The gardens are in the formal French style; the trees are poor starved limes, for the soil is so shallow, and the rocks so compact and near the surface, that they can strike no root. To plant them, the old king had squares in the rock blown out with gunpowder, and worked with tools, then filled with earth. You

may easily imagine they have not thriven much, and indeed they are with difficulty kept alive by frequent renewals of soil and waterings.

The water-works surpass all those I ever saw, not excepting the finest at Versailles. Not having any memorandums of their different heights, I do not know but those in the French king's gardens may throw the water up higher; but I very well recollect, that the Seine-water, which they spout out, is of a muddy colour, falling down like a stinking thick fog. These jet-d'eaux of Saint Ildephonso, send forth a stream as clear as crystal, whereon the sun-beams play in the most beautiful prismatic tints; it falls around like the sweetest finest dew. The designs of the fountains are elegant, especially that of the Frogs; a central one, where sixteen spouts play in a regular combination; the great cascade; the basket, remarkable for its idea and symmetry; it delighted us much: but the fountain of Diana surprized us with the richness of its decoration, and the fulness of its stream; the lofty column of water issuing out of the trumpet of Fame, exceeded all our conceptions of the power of hydrostatics; the gardener mentioned a height to us that I durst not commit to paper on his authority, but I confess the water went up to such an extraordinary elevation, that it was no longer in my power to guess at the number of feet. These fountains are supplied by two
reservoirs

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reservoirs at the foot of the mountain. One of them is allotted solely to the fountain of Diana. The larger which is emphatically called *El Mar*, is a very pretty lake, which with the hanging woods and a small building on the edge, forms a very pleasing subject for a landscape painter.

On our return to our lodgings, we were not a little entertained with the modest request of a friar, just alighted with some company from a carriage. He desired we would order the water-works to be played off again immediately for them, as it had not been possible for them to arrive in time to go into the gardens with us, and they intended travelling that night as far as Segovia. It was with great difficulty we could convince him, that it was a thing not to be done that evening, for want of time, and that the keepers would expect a very handsome present, if they set them agoing without orders from court.

Below the town is the manufactory of plate-glass belonging to the crown, carried on under the direction of Mr. Dowling; two hundred and eighty men are employed. The largest plate they have made is one hundred and twenty-six Spanish inches long; the small pieces are sold in looking-glasses all over the kingdom; but I am told the king makes no great profit by it; however it is a very material point to be able to supply his

subjects with a good commodity, and to keep in the country a large sum of money that heretofore went out annually to purchase it from strangers. They also make bottles and drinking-glasses ; and are now busy erecting very spacious new furnaces to enlarge the works. To provide fuel for the fires, they have put the pine-woods under proper regulations and stated falls : twenty-seven mule loads of fir-wood are consumed every day ; and four loads cost the king, including all the expences of cutting and bringing down from the mountains, about forty reals.

L E T T E R XLIV.

Saint Jean de Luz, June 19, 1776.

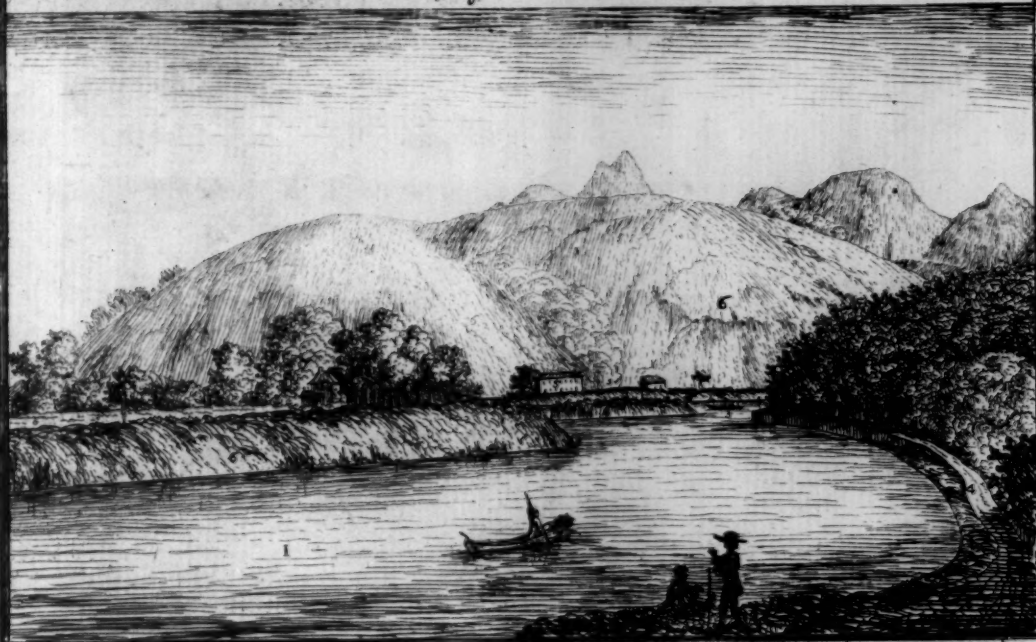
THE first object in Segovia that attracts the eye, is the Aqueduct ; as the road from Saint Ildefonso runs near it a considerable way through the suburbs. It is perfectly well preserved, and does not seem leaky in any part. From the first low arches to the reservoir in the town, its length is two thousand four hundred Spanish feet ; its greatest height (in the Plaza del Azobejo

Castle of Segovia.

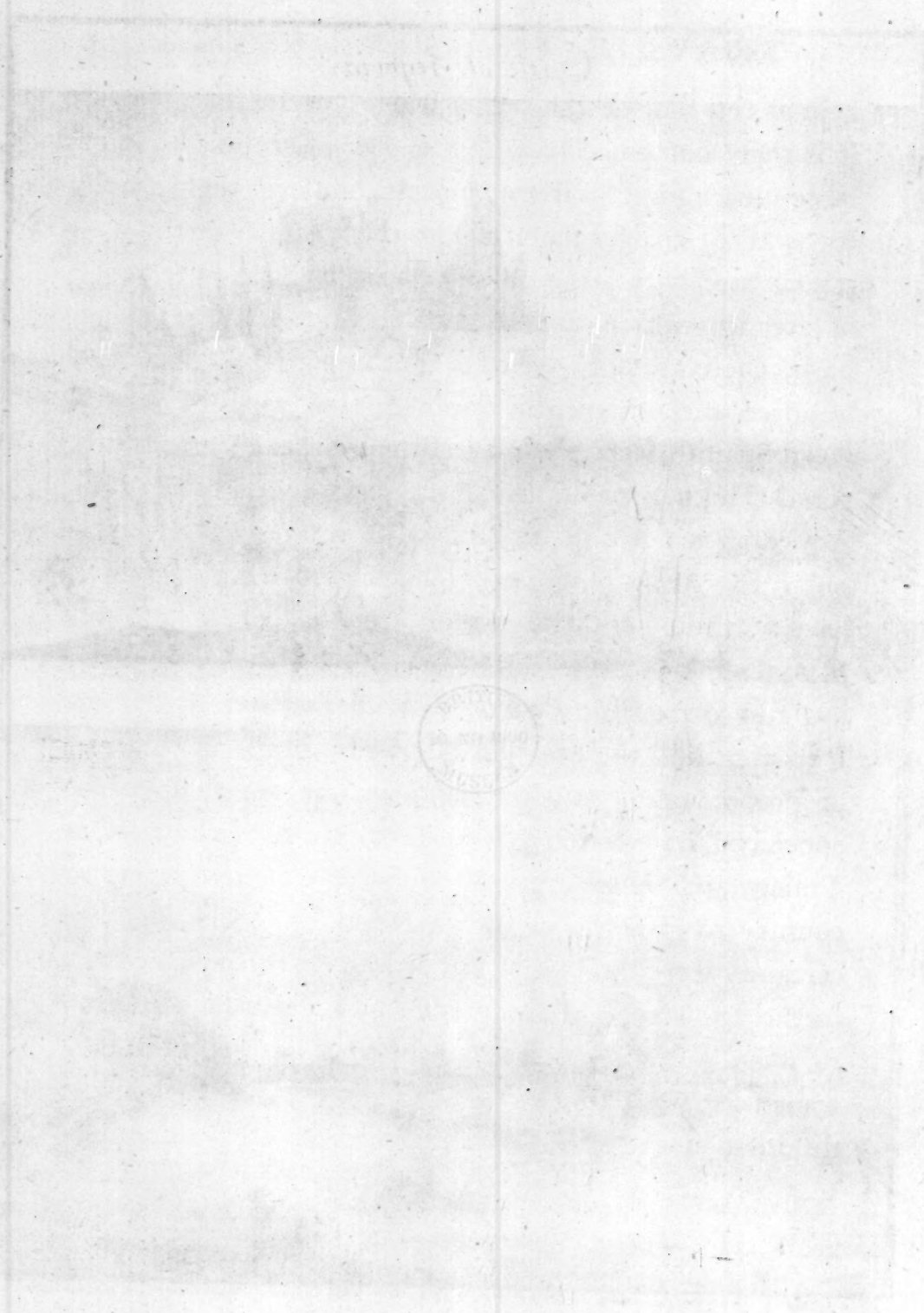


1776

Passage of the Bidasoa.



1. River Bidasoa. 2. Island of Conferences 1689. 3. Passage. 4. Spain. 5. Spanish custom-house. 6. France. 7. French custom-house.



bejo at the foot of the walls) is one hundred and four; it is there composed of a double row of arches, built of large square stones without mortar, and over them a hollow wall of coarser materials for the channel of the water, covered with large oblong flags. Of the lower range of arcades, which are fifteen feet wide by sixty-five high, there are forty-two. The upper arches are one hundred and nineteen in number; their height twenty-seven Spanish feet, their breadth seventeen; the transversal thickness or depth of the piers eight feet. This Aqueduct is not only an admirable monument of antiquity for its solidity and good mason's work, which have withstood the violence of so many barbarians, and the inclemencies of the seasons during so many ages, but also wonderfully beautiful and light in its design. I do not think the Pont du Gard equal to it in elegance of proportions. Antiquaries have not agreed upon the epocha of its erection; some attribute it to the time of Trajan, and others are willing for the honour of their country to give the credit to Hercules. The Romans certainly were the builders of it, but no inscription leads to the knowledge of the precise period of their empire, in which it was constructed: perhaps a person accustomed for years to study among the ruins of Rome, the different modes of building adopted in different ages by that people, might be able from an inspection of the stone-

stone-work, to determine the æra. It is likely to remain in its present state as long as Segovia exists; for the situation of that city on a dry rock renders this supply a thing of indispensable necessity.

The Cathedral, dedicated to *Nicestra señora de la Paz*, is one of the handsomest churches in Spain, in the latest Gothic manner. The inside is majestic, and remarkably clear of the embarrassments of altars and chapels so common throughout the kingdom. The high altar is rich and shewy.

The Alcazar, or Castle, stands in one of the finest positions possible, on a rock rising above the open country; a very pretty river washes the foot of the precipice, and the city lies admirably well on each side on the brow of the hill; the declivity is woody, and the banks charmingly rural; the snowy mountains, and dark forests of Saint Ildefonso, compose an awful back-ground to the picture. Towards the town there is a large court before the great outward tower, which you are as well acquainted with as I am; the prison of *Gil Blas* is so well described by *Le Sage*, that the subject requires no farther explanation. The rest of the buildings form an antique palace, which has seldom been inhabited by any but prisoners since the reign of *Ferdinand* and *Isabella*, who were much attached to this situation. There are some magnificent halls in it, with
much

much gilding in the ceilings, in a semi-barbarous taste. All the kings of Spain are seated in state along the cornice of the great saloon; I know not whether they are like the princes whose names they bear, but if that resemblance be wanting, I am sure they have no other merit to claim. The royal apartments are now occupied by a college of young gentlemen cadets, educated at the king's expence in all the sciences requisite for forming an engineer. The grand master of the ordnance resides at Segovia, which is the head establishment of the Spanish artillery.

Another court of the palace is allotted as a prison to eleven Algerine Reis, or captains of ships. Their crews work in the arsenal of Carthage. These Turks are very handsome portly figures, with clean looks, and well-combed beards; they are well treated, and left to themselves. Most of their time is spent in conversation, walking up and down a long gallery, smoking, and playing at chess, except when they go down at stated hours to fetch water for their own use. Confinement apart, their lives pass in ease and tranquillity. As soon as they saw us walking about the court, they immediately knew us to be Englishmen, most of them having been several times at Gibraltar, and being well acquainted with the British character of face; it being the hour of fetching water, and the door open, they
flocked

flocked about us with great demonstrations of joy, and tears of pleasure starting into every eye. They kissed our hands, and called us *Ingles buens bueno Amigos*, over and over again, with difficulty prevailing upon themselves to leave us to go about their work at the well. My man S. G. by our orders, followed one of the principal men among them, and in lingua Franca, which indeed is the common jumble of tongues he makes use of at all times, gave him an account of the Spanish defeat before Algiers. They had heard of the preparations for the expedition, and had been much cast down with the thoughts of it; but had begun to entertain some hopes of a miscarriage, as many months had elapsed since they knew of the departure of the fleet, and not a syllable concerning its success had dropped from any of their guards. The venerable old Musulman raised his hands to heaven, and seemed to look upon the pains and irksomeness of slavery, to be more than repaid by the exquisite sensations he enjoyed in this happy moment. When his informant added, that the Algerines had lost a great number of camels, the Turk turned upon him with a, "What talk ye to me of Camels? had they killed thousands of them, there would still remain enough, and the beasts themselves must be proud of dying to save their country." After shaking them all by the hand, and leaving a present to
buy

buy tobacco, we took our leave of our *allies*, who followed us down the portico with longing eyes and a thousand benedictions; which, if their prophet has any jurisdiction over the roads, will preserve us from overturns and broken limbs.

The mint is below the Alcazar, a large building, the most ancient place of coinage in the kingdom. The machines for melting, stamping, and milling the coin, are worked by water. I believe that of Seville has at present more business, as being nearer the source of riches, the port of Cadiz, where the lingots of America are landed.

The unevenness of the crown of the hill, gives a wild look to this city. Most of the streets are crooked and dirty; the houses wooden and very wretched: nor do the inhabitants appear much the richer for their cloth manufactory. Indeed it is not in a very flourishing condition; but what cloth they make is very fine.

The country hereabouts has the reputation of being the best for feeding the kind of sheep that gives the celebrated wool; but as those flocks wander over many other parts of the kingdom, and are not bred here, I do not see any right Segovia has to this exclusive claim. A small quantity of it is manufactured in the country, and through mismanagement, laziness, or lack of hands, the greatest part of the wool is carried to

France ; and, at Orleans and other places, made up into caps and cloths, many of which return to Spain for sale.

The country grew sandy as we advanced into Old Castille. In general it is extremely open, but now and then we came to woods of pine-trees, especially near the rivers. It appears much better land, and more populous, than New Castille, for the villages stand pretty thick in most parts of it. At Villa de Santa Cruz, the only thing we remarked was a cow's tail, in which the hostess stuck her combs ; as this was the first instance we had met with of a custom which prevailed in Sancho Pança's time, and was of such service in furnishing the barber with a false beard, we took particular notice of it. You know how fond I am of the fat fellow, and how happy I must be to find any thing that explains and exemplifies the traits of his inimitable history.

Olmedo, which I think is a place that occurs in Gil Blas, is a ruined town in a fine plain, rich in corn and pasturage, in droves of brood mares, and flocks of black sheep ; some pine woods, in one of which is a grand monastery of Bernardines, bound the horizon very agreeably. We slept on the tenth at Hornillo, a small village on the river Aldaya, the banks of which are prettily wooded, and form many interesting points of view.

The

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The next morning we came through a very sandy tract of forest land, to a hill from which we discovered the plains of Valladolid, and the course of the Duero ; a fine river, that falls into the ocean at Porto, in the kingdom of Portugal. Beyond a chain of bare white hills, at one of their angles, stands the town of Simancas, where, in 938, was gained that signal victory over the Moors, which gave rise, as is pretended, to the voto de Santiago. The archives of the realm were deposited, by Philip the second, in the castle of Simancas, where they still remain. Valladolid is a very large rambling city, full of edifices ; which, during the reign of Philip the third, who made it his constant residence, were the palace of his great officers and nobility. Being abandoned by their owners, who have followed the court in all its different emigrations, they are fallen to decay, and exhibit a picture of the utmost desolation : the palace of the king is so ruined, that I could with difficulty find any body to shew me the spot where Philip had resided. The private houses are ill-built and ugly. The great square, some streets built upon porticos, many colleges and convents, are still grand, and denote something of the magnificence of a place that had been long honoured with the presence of its monarch ; but in general, Valladolid has the appearance of having been run up in a hurry

to receive the court, and that it was meant to be rebuilt afterwards at leisure, of more durable materials than bad brick and mud, the composition of most of its present houses. The Dominican convent, a gothic edifice, is the most remarkable in the city. The university is in the last stage of a decline, and trade and manufactures at as low an ebb. It is melancholy to behold the poverty and misery painted in the meagre faces, and displayed in the tattered garments of the common people ; the women go quite bare-headed.

We passed the river Puiserga at Cabeçon, which has the reputation of producing the best wine in the province. The soil is clay mixed with sand, and most of it planted with vines. The hills are composed of strata of clay and marle ; great scarcity of wood ; but a much more chearful look in the country than in any part of New Castille : the number of small towns or large villages rather considerable ; on most of the hills, ruined towers and remains of ancient castles. We travelled up the Puiserga for many miles, through a broad vale, bare of trees, but tolerably well cultivated ; we crossed and recrossed the river several times ; the largest bridge is near Torquemada, of twenty-two arches. The houses hereabouts are built with pieces of clay squared and baked in the sun, but their concoction is very imperfect.

On

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On the 13th we came to a much more agreeable country, better provided with wood, and more thronged with habitations ; on every steeple one or two storks' nests ; those birds seem to be held in the same veneration here as they are in the Low Countries. That morning we arrived at Burgos, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Castille, but long since abandoned by its princes to obscurity and decadency. The approach to it, up a long valley, is rather pleasing : the castle, the ancient broken walls sloping down from it, and lower down the cathedral, terminate the prospect in a picturesque manner. The dress of the women differs from all those we have seen elsewhere ; and were there any smartness in their manner, any beauty in their faces, or even the usual bright Spanish eye to peep out from under their veil, it would be a very becoming garment for a country girl : but all those we saw were the ugliest awkward hoydens in nature ; they wear large clumsy shoes, almost as bad as the French sabot, a brown gown thrown back and tied behind, a blue and white apron, and a large flowing white veil fastened with blue ribands. The montero caps of the men are all faced with red or blue.

Before we entered Burgos, we passed by the famous Abbey delas Huelgas, one of the best endowed in Spain. Its nuns are all noble, and the abbess almost a sovereign

reign princess, by the extent of her territories, the number of her prerogatives, and the variety of her jurisdictions. The convent is not a shewy building; the situation is low and unpleasant. The little river Alarcon separates the suburbs from the city; which is built in a very irregular manner, on the declivity of a steep hill, commanded by an antique castle, once the abode of the counts, and afterwards of the kings of Castille.

As soon as the petty sovereigns of Asturias ventured to steal out of their mountainous fastnesses and retreats, to extend the limits of their little kingdom at the expence of the Mahometan caliphs, their conquests seem to have been entrusted to the care of generals or counts. As the kings of Leon and Asturias were always busied in warfare, if men of strong bodies and valiant spirits, and if princes of a weak constitution and an unwarlike turn, were unable to form any strong opposition, these counts gradually encroached upon the royal prerogative, and converted a precarious delegated command into the solid establishment of hereditary power. By these means, about the close of the tenth century, the counts of Castille became entirely independent of the crown of Leon, in the time of Ferdinand Gonzales, and during the minority of Ramiro the third, king of Leon. Some authors have advanced, that the Castillians at one time had formed themselves
into

into a commonwealth, governed by two judges, one appointed to superintend all civil affairs, and the other to command the troops. But the proofs alleged to support this opinion, are extremely weak and suspicious; it is however a favourite story in Castille.

The male line of Gonzales failed in the person of Garcias Sanchez, who was murdered by some exiled noblemen; and his sister Munia transferred the sovereignty to her husband Sancho the Great, king of Navarre. This prince was the common stock of all the princes that afterwards governed the several monarchies of Spain. The title of king of Leon was soon absorbed, or at least superseded in point of rank, by the new one of Castille.

Over the city gate are some statues of the judges or counts, still objects of great veneration in the eyes of the patriotic Castillian.

The cathedral is one of the most magnificent structures of the gothic kind, now existing in Europe; but although it rises very high, and is seen at a great distance, its situation in a hole cut out of the side of the hill, is a great disadvantage to its general effect. Its form is exactly the same as that of York-minster, which I look upon to be the criterion according to which the beauties or defects of every Gothic church are to be estimated. At the western or principal front are two
steeples.

steeple ending in spires, and on the center of the edifice rises a large square tower, adorned with eight pinnacles; on one side of the east end is a lower octagon building, with eight pyramids, which correspond exactly to the Chapter-house at York. We were struck with the resemblance between these buildings; both were embellished with a profusion of statues; most of those at York were destroyed in the first emotions of iconoclastic zeal; those of Burgos are still in full possession of the homages of the country, and consequently entire; several of them are much more delicate than one would expect, considering the age they were sculptured in. Santiago, the patron of this cathedral, stands very conspicuous on his war-horse among the needles of the main steeple; and the Virgin Mary is seated in solemn state over the great window of the west porch. The foliage-work, arches, pillars, and battlements, are executed in the most elaborate and finished manner of that style which has usually been called *Gothic*; of late this appellation is exploded, and that of *Arabic* substituted for it. I confess, I see some reason to doubt of the propriety of this second epithet. In the buildings I have had opportunities of examining in Spain and in Sicily, which are undoubtedly Saracenic, I have never been able to discover any thing like an original design, from which the

the Gothic ornaments might be supposed to be copied. The arches used in our old cathedrals are pointed; those of the Saracens are almost semi-circular, whenever they are not turned in the form of an horse-shoe. The churches of our ancestors shoot up into spires, towers, pinnacles and filigree work, and no such thing as a cupola seems ever to have been attempted; the mosques and other buildings of the Arabians, are rounded into domes and coved roofs, with now and then a slender square minaret terminating in a ball or pine-apple; the Arabic walls shine with painted tiles, mosaics, and stucco, none of which ever appear in our ancient edifices; the pillars in the latter are generally grouped many together, and from a very small member of an entablature springs one or two arches; in the former, the columns stand single, and if placed more than one together to support some heavy part, they never touch, or as it were grow into each other; there is always a thick architrave at least to support the arch, and commonly an upright piece of wall to resist the lateral pressure. Whenever it happens, as in the great divisions of the mosque at Cordova, that four pillars are joined together, it is by means of a square wall or pier, at the four angles of which are placed the columns, perfectly separated and distinct. In all the varieties of capitals I have taken drawings of, I never found one ex-

actly the same in design or proportions, as our Gothic ones in the churches of England, or in those of France, at least such as I have examined; viz. Saint Denis, Amiens, Rouen, Bordeaux, Tours, and others. The Christian structures are extremely lofty, and full of long windows with painted glass; the porches and doors are deep recesses, with several arches one within another, crowded with little saints and angels. Now every thing is different in the mosque of Cordova, the only one I have ever seen, but which I think may be fairly deemed a proper sample of Arabian sacred architecture, to establish a judgment upon; whether we consider its antiquity, being built before the ninth century; its present state, which, some parts excepted, is exactly as it was a thousand years ago; or lastly the princely hands that raised it. It was erected by Abdoulrahman the first, probably upon the designs, and under the inspection of the ablest architects of the age, and according to the method of distribution observed in holy edifices built in Arabia and Egypt. Here, and I have reason to think it is so in most, if not all, mosques, the elevation of the roof is trifling, not a seventeenth part of the length of the isles; there are no windows of any size, and what there are, are covered with filigree-work in stone, so as never to admit any great quantity of light, which was received from sky-lights and cupolas,

polas, and from the occasional opening of the doors : the sinking back of the arches over the gates is scarce perceptible, as they are almost of an equal projection with the wall of the building. From all these differential marks, I am inclined to suspect that our old structures have been new-named, and Mahometanised without sufficient proof of their Arabic origin. At the same time I acknowledge it is difficult to find them a more satisfactory and genuine pedigree.

The best age of that style of construction began in England in the reign of Henry the third, for till then we built in the clumsy manner called Saxon, destitute of every recommendation but solidity ; the new taste came in all probability from France, introduced by some Provençals that followed the queen. If you suppose it imported into that kingdom by those that returned from the crusades, we must of course set it down as an eastern invention. The question is what part of the east it came from, and whether it was the same as that employed by the Arabians. If there were clear proofs of its being a branch of the Arabic architecture, it would still appear extraordinary, that its very first introduction into Christendom should be attended with so great a variation from the models it was meant to imitate ; and that any prince or learned priest

that thought it worthy of being employed in his country, should immediately set about new fashioning it in all its points. We may, if we please to indulge our fancy, say that some sublime genius started out from the dusty gloom of a monastic library, altered and improved upon the hints he found in books of Arabian architecture, substituted bold and astonishing ideas of his own; found bishops, princes, and abbots, willing to adopt them; and built churches in a style entirely new, and apparently original. We may suppose him to have formed a school of other monks, the only architects of those ages among the Christians; and that these pupils gradually new modelled the precepts of their master, and reduced his method to certain rules; which afterwards served as guides through all the fantastic mazes of our ecclesiastical architecture. Some persons have suspected it to have been the manner practised by the eastern Christians, and not adopted by the Arabs; who might disdain to have any thing similar in their places of worship, with those of a conquered people. Others have been of opinion, that it comes originally from Persia, or further east; and some again maintain it to be an European invention, or at least a barbarous mode of building brought by some great genius to the elegant perfection we behold in our cathedrals.

thedrals. The argument would require a great number of comparisons, confrontations, and combinations, to find out the connection between the two manners: such a disquisition belongs more properly to a treatise than to a letter, of which it has already engrossed too large a share.

In a narrow lane near Burgos we were detained for some time by the passing of many small carts, coming down from Aragon with spears for bull-fighting, iron, and chairs. These are the carts that suggested to Cervantes the idea of Merlin's chariot in the second part of Don Quixote. Their wheels make a creaking or grinding, which I can compare to nothing but the noise of iron mills and fire engines. It is the loudest and most piercing sound imaginable; and before you are acquainted with the cause, it is not possible to guess what produces it.

We proceeded along the river side, through a well wooded handsome vale. The Carthusian convent stands beautifully on a round hill; its old chapel answers the idea of a fine object in an English garden. Behind it rises a long ridge of green hills, over which appear the snowy summits of some very distant mountains. We slept at a poor place, where we were much diverted with the head attire of the married women; it consists of a black periwig, faced all round with the wool of a black lamb, ending behind in two long plaited tresses, that

that reach down to their rumps. Previous to their nuptials, they are obliged to make up this elegant kind of helmet, which renders their natural ugliness still more horrible.

All the fourteenth we travelled from vale to vale, over the bare hills that separate them. The most fertile is the vale of Saint Mary, where the corn was uncommonly strong and healthy, but the roads so bad as to put us frequently in danger of an overturn. At length all these alternate plains and hills brought us to the foot of the Sierra del Oca; a lofty ridge of mountains that runs from west to east, and seems to block up all further progress. As our muleteers had informed us that we were not to climb the mountain, we were long considering where the pass could possibly be. Pancorvo proved to be the place; a long village in a defile that winds through the Sierra, with immense piles of rock impending on every side. It wears a most awful tremendous aspect, which was heightened by the black clouds that hung upon the summits of its cliffs, and soon after burst in a violent storm of thunder and rain.

On the fifteenth having passed through with great ease, as the road is extraordinarily good, we descended into the fruitful plains of the Ebro. This noble river did not appear to us much less here at Miranda, than it did above two hundred and thirty miles lower, at Tortosa,

Tortosa, where we crossed it eight months ago. The bridge was destroyed last year, and a ferry now supplies its place ; and is likely to do so long, for this is not the country for speedy repairs. Miranda is well situated, but its buildings are poor, and its gates and streets so narrow that a carriage cannot pass through them. The plain is of great extent, bounded to the west by the blue mountains, where the Ebro takes its rise. In these flats, which are frequently overflowed, the soil is a rich loam, where they cultivate a large quantity of oats, a grain not much sown or used in the southern provinces. We ascended the hills to a gravelly country planted with vines, and at Puebla de Triviño, bade adieu to all bad roads, and villainous inns ; for here we entered Alaba, a division of Biscay, and immediately came to the finest road imaginable, made at the expence of the province, and carried through the whole signory of Biscay, to the frontiers of France. Their only fault is being rather narrow in some places, which indeed is excusable from the mountainous and difficult passes they have been conveyed over, where more space is scarce to be contrived. Every thing round us now assumed a different appearance ; instead of the bare depopulated hills, the melancholy despondent countenances, the dirty inns, and abominable roads, that our eye had been accustomed to for so many months ;

we

we here were revived by the sight of a rich studied culture, a clean-looking, smiling people, good furniture, neat houses, fine woods, good roads, and safe bridges.

Biscay is the country of the ancient Cantabri, so imperfectly subdued by Augustus, and so slightly annexed to the Roman empire. Their mountains have in all ages afforded them temptations and opportunities of withdrawing themselves from every yoke that has been attempted to be imposed upon them. Their language is accounted aboriginal, and unmixed with either Latin, French, or Spanish. It is so totally different from the Castilian, that we seldom met with any of the peasants that understood one word of Spanish. The Biscayners are stout, brave, and choleric to a proverb. The best sailors in Spain belong to the ports of Biscay, and its mountains produce a very valuable race of soldiers. Their privileges are very extensive, and they watch over them with a jealous eye. They have no bishops in the province, and style the king only *Lord of Biscay*. The men are well-built and active, like all mountaineers. The most singular thing in their dress is the covering of their legs; they wrap a piece of coarse grey or black woollen cloth round them, and fasten it on with many turns of tape; it answers precisely the idea I have of Malvolio's cross-gartering in the Twelfth-night. The women

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women are beautiful as angels, tall, light, and merry ; their garb is neat and pastoral ; their hair falls in long plaits down their backs, and a veil or handkerchief, twisted round in a coquetish manner, serves them for a very becoming head-dress : on Sundays they generally wear white, tied with rose-coloured knots.

The first Biscayan inn we stopped at, is delightfully situated near the banks of the romantic Sahorra. We were very lavish of our praises upon the smart habili-ment of the landlord's daughters, his own civility, and the cleanliness of every thing in his house.

We came in the evening an easy journey to Victoria, through the finest plains perhaps in Europe. I cannot find words to express its wonderful fertility, the crowds of villages in sight on all the little eminences, the noble woods that stretch round the corn-lands, and the happy busy looks of the crowd which we met returning from market ; every cottage has its little garden, neat and flourishing.

Victoria is placed on a hill, and makes a figure from all the environs ; but the streets are narrow and gloomy, the houses being built of a very dark-coloured stone.

Having traversed the rich plains beyond the capital of Alava, we ascended the hills into the woods, which consist of oak, beech, and chestnut. They pursue here the same method as the inhabitants of the French side

of the Pyrenees, that of planting their timber-trees; wherever an old one is felled, they take care to replace it with a young set about four feet high.

Near Salinas, a village inhabited by the workmen of the iron forges, we entered the very heart of the mountains; which would be impassable from the steep ascents and rapid slopes, had they not lessened the difficulties by proper windings of the road, and by great attention to the keeping of it in perfect repair. The tops of all these mountains are crowned with forests, or covered with pastures; the acclivities cultivated as far as their nature will allow, and the deep vallies thronged with villages, hamlets, iron-works, orchards, and gardens. The timber of the mountains, and the iron smelted in the forges, employ a great number of hands, and give life and spirit to the whole province. The little towns are full of good houses, built by those whose industry and enterprizes have been rewarded with success. These manufactories and undertakings diffuse opulence among the middle class of men, and enable them to indulge the patriotic vanity of settling comfortably in their native hamlet.

Having winded along a charming valley for many hours, and repeatedly crossed a beautiful river, we passed over a high chain of mountains at the Puerto de Villareal. We there enjoyed fine but not extensive views.

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views of a mountainous well-wooded country. We then descended into the charming valley of Tolosa, a large town, which like all those we passed through, swarms with inhabitants. The landscape on every side is divine, and approaches the nearest to those of La Cava in the kingdom of Naples, or those of Tivoli in the Roman state, of any I recollect having met with in the course of my travels.

Early on the eighteenth we gained the summit of a woody hill, from whence we overlooked the Bay of Biscay, Fontarabia, Andaye, the course of the Bidassoa, the province of Labour in France, and a prodigious range of the Pyrenees. A more delightful prospect never existed, even in the divine imagination of Claude Lorrain.

About eleven we arrived at the Bidassoa; a broad clear stream, that issues with great majesty out of a valley among the mountains, and flows through the marshes into the sea. The water was so low that the carriages passed through the river; but we took the ferry-boat, and landed in France.

T H E E N D.

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view of a mountainous well wooded country. We then descended into the charming valley of Toledo. In the town which lies at the foot of the mountain we found a fine view of the city of Toledo. The Roman wall of the city is still visible in some places. The city is situated on a high hill, and the view from the top is very fine.

The country is very fertile, and the soil is very rich. The climate is very pleasant, and the people are very friendly. The city of Toledo is a very important city, and it is the capital of the province of Toledo. The city is situated on a high hill, and the view from the top is very fine. The city is very old, and it has a very long history. The city is very beautiful, and it is a very important city.

At about eleven we started for the city of Toledo. The journey was very pleasant, and the view was very fine. The city of Toledo is a very important city, and it is the capital of the province of Toledo. The city is situated on a high hill, and the view from the top is very fine. The city is very old, and it has a very long history. The city is very beautiful, and it is a very important city.

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E R R A T A.

- Page ix for *Favila*, read *Favila*.
 xi. for *Maravadi*, read *Maravedi*.
 44. for *of such vermine*, read *of vermine*.
 45. for *by an hollow*, read *by a hollow*.
 46. for *Mataw*, read *Mataro*.
 73. for *lowest trees*, read *locust trees*.
 91. for *military architecture: a wall*, read *military architecture are; a wall*.
 106. for *it is very shallow*, read *which is very shallow*.
 113. for *las buertias; the gardens of Alicant lying*, read *las buertias, the gardens of Alicant, lying*.
 119. for *Peric pepper*, read *Peru pepper*.
 135. for *Lorea*, read *Lorca*.
 135. for *metals*, read *medals*.
 225. for *Alcade*, read *Alcalde*.
 250. for *incorrupted*, read *unincorrupted*.
 275. for *groves, clump and*, read *groves, clumps and*.
 283. for *of the Narbonne*, read *of Narbonne*.
 291. for *Murica*, read *Murcia*.
 328. for *for the spring*, read *for spring*.
 331. for *magnificent*, read *magnificent*.
 341. for *in a grand scale*, read *on a grand scale*.
 358. for *Saville*, read *Seville*.
 364. for *there are three*, read *these are three*.
 375. for *at San lucas*, read *at San lucar*.
 380. for *lasbes away*, read *dasbes away*.
 383. for *Compostilla*, read *Compostella*.
 385. for *near Terragona*, read *near Taragona*.
 394. for *tents, semitents*, read *tints, semitints*.
 395. for *is presented, sitting with her right hand, holding*, read *is represented sitting, with her right hand holding*.
 396. for *Corriggio*, read *Correggio*.
 397. for *Viago*, read *Viage*.
 399. for *Parnefe*, read *Farnefe*.
 400. for *resembles modern*, read *resembles a modern*.
 406. for *Nicefra*, read *nuestra*.
 411. for *were the palace*, read *were the palaces*.
 416. for *correspond exactly to the*, read *correspond exactly with the*.

